

STUDIES FROM THE DESIRE OF AGES

Chapter *XLII* - "Tradition" Chapter *XLIII* - "Barriers Broken Down"

- A. How did tradition designed to enhance God's law actually obscure both the law and its Author?
- B. Read [Mark 7:5-13](#). What was the corban tradition? In what specific way did it enable a person to avoid the claims of God's law?
- C. Are there specific customs and traditions in your personal life that you find hard to give up even though they have no basis in the eternal laws of God?
- D. How was the manner in which Jesus received the Syro-Phoenician woman similar to and different from the practices of His day? What lesson was to be gleaned by the disciples from this exchange?
- E. How did the example of the "dogs" and the "crumbs" test the woman's faith and educate His disciples? What does it say to us?
- F. Read [Ephesians 2:11-18](#). When was the wall of "partition broken down" between Jew and Gentile? How should this affect the way you personally choose to treat people?
- G. In what ways is it possible for Christians to place a wall of partition between themselves and the non-Christian world?

Additional Questions

1. Why did the religious leaders choose to question Jesus about the traditions?
2. What are the questions which should really concern the Christian?
3. What were they really doing with their traditions?
4. Did Jesus know that the Pharisees were offended?
5. Why was the woman excluded from the advantages which the Jews daily enjoyed?
6. If she had been praying to heathen gods, why did Jesus bother to answer her request?

7. Why did Jesus call her a "dog?" Or did He?
8. Do you think that possibly Jesus gives out His blessings too freely today?
9. Is there anything which can block our faith?
10. Personal views: List a favorite section or some new thought from this reading.