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Chapter 7. One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. Verse 2. They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. Verse 3. (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until

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they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. Verse 4. Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to -- such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)

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Verse 5. So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony." Verse 6. Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people



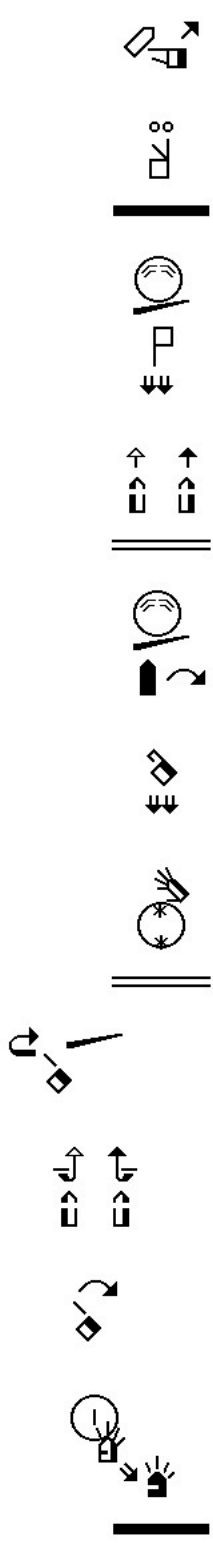
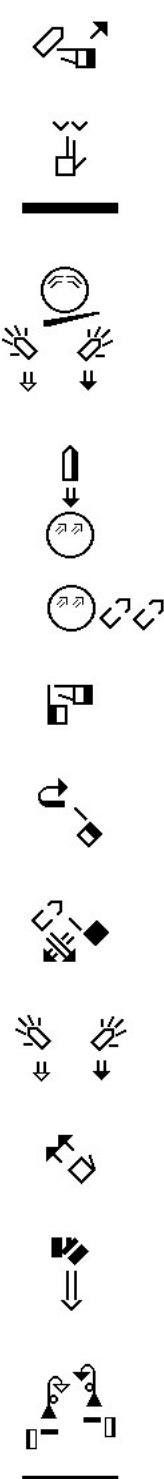
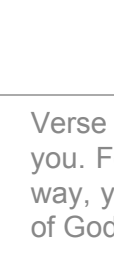
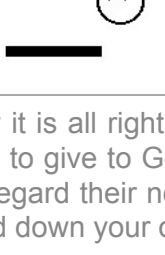
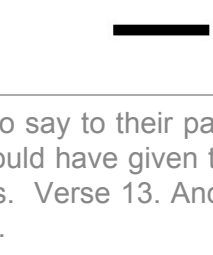
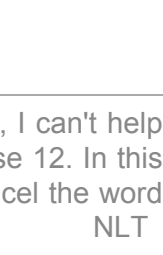
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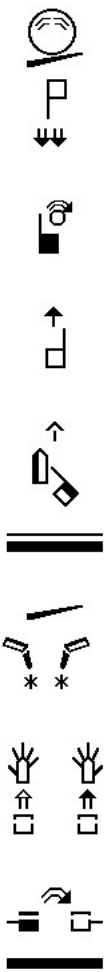

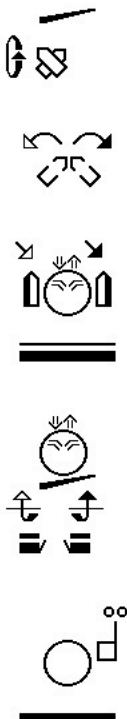
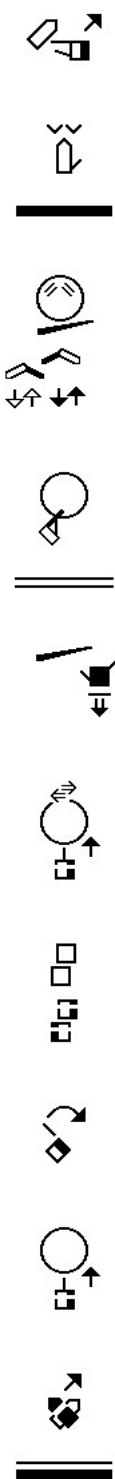
honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Verse 7. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' Verse 8. For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition." Verse 9. Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law

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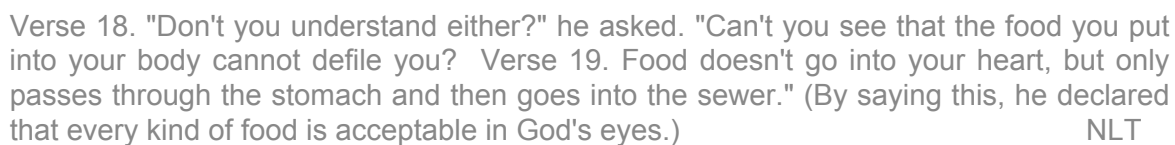
			
			

Verse 11. But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' Verse 12. In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. Verse 13. And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition.

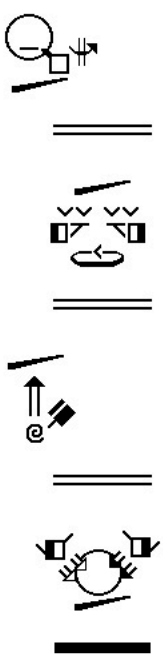
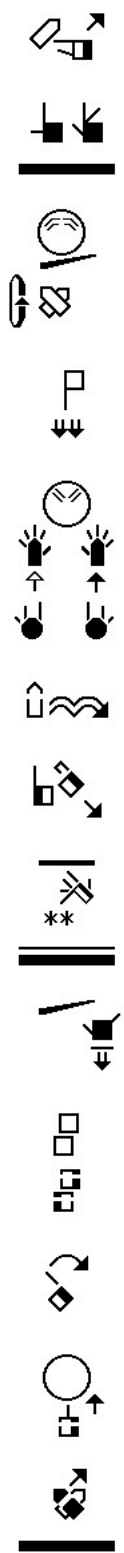


			
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you are defiled by what comes from your heart." Verse 17. Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. (Note: No Verse 16 in NLT)



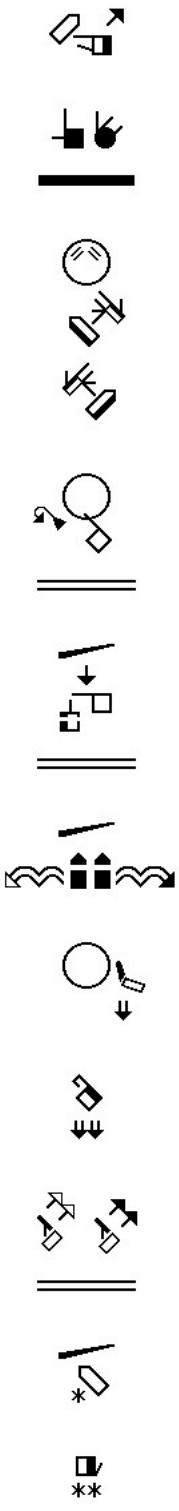
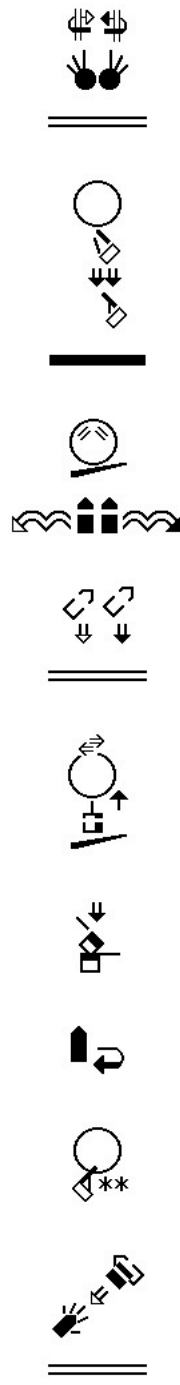
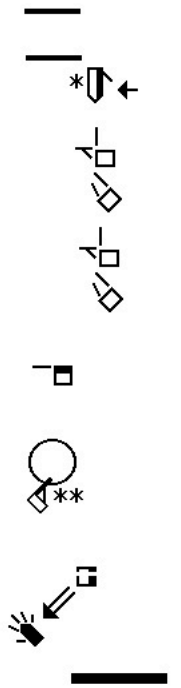
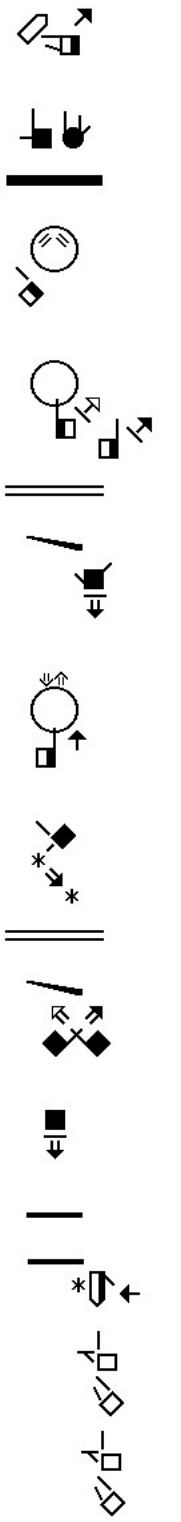
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envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. Verse 23. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you." Verse 24. Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret.

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Verse 25. Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, Verse 26. and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, NLT

			
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under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates." Verse 29. "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." Verse 30. And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

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Verse 31. Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. Verse 32. A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him. NLT

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Verse 33. Jesus led him away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then, spitting on his own fingers, he touched the man's tongue. Verse 34. Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened!" Verse 35. Instantly the man could hear perfectly, and his tongue was freed so he could speak plainly!

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Verse 36. Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but the more he told them not to, the more they spread the news. Verse 37. They were completely amazed and said again and again, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."

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