

I Desire Mercy and not Sacrifice

Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:23-36;
Luke 6:1-11

Jesse Nelsen 5/4/2014 AM

Introduction

- We are going to see Jesus employ a principle that was not being employed by the Pharisees “mercy over sacrifice”
- Jesus is going to make the statement “The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath”
- We will see examples Jesus uses to show how both these principle should be applied.
- We are going to receive application for us today

Breaking the Law?

- Jesus disciples were “hungry” and so they picked grain on the Sabbath to eat (Deut. 23:25).
- David was “hungry” and ate of the consecrated bread (1 Samuel 21:6-7)
- Jesus is trying to show how no law was broken and He is going to give example after example.
- Now these “Hedges around the Torah” were put in place with good intent but good intentions still have bad outcomes

Work on the Sabbath?

- Some things take precedent over other things (Galatians 6:10).
- The Priest needed to do their daily task even when it fell on the Sabbath (Leviticus 24:5-9)
- They would pick up their sheep if it had gone into a pit on the Sabbath.
 - Jesus uses this to show His authority for healing the man's hand on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:9-14).
 - The Pharisees are very inconsistent with their logic

Sabbath Versus Jesus

- Jesus is greater than the temple- the “shekinah” the glory or dwelling of God (Ezekiel 11:22-25).
- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath- this does not mean Jesus could break the Sabbath because He said He wouldn’t (Matthew 5:17-19; 1 Peter 2:21-22; Heb. 4:15) it meant he was the proper interpreter of the Sabbath, being God and all.
- Luke adds something on interest: “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath”
- It was a day of rest (for the good) and the Pharisees had turned it into a burden (Matt. 23:4)

Hosea 6:6 “I Desire Mercy and not Sacrifice

- Background of the book of Hosea
 - Hosea was going to marry and continue to take back a harlot to symbolize God’s and Israel’s relationship
- Chapter 6- God is going to bring down Israel but they will be raised again
- “For I delight in loyalty (covenant love i.e. compassion) rather than sacrifice and in knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- God desires a relationship and fellowship with God rather than meaningless sacrifices with no relationship.
- God is not like their foreign gods, whom sacrifice is more important than relationship

Application

- Where both Pharisees and the Jews went wrong according to Hosea 6:6, was that they no longer had their loyalty with God (same thing happened to king Saul in 1 Samuel 15).
- No law was actually broken, because doing good was not the “work” that was prohibited (Matthew 12:12)
- If we are motivated by mercy and loyalty to God we will not put laws where God has not put laws but if we are motivated by sacrifice (i.e. law), then we will become like the Pharisees
- Combine Hosea 6:4-6 and 1 Samuel 15:22 and you have: “A loving compassionate obedient faith rather than sacrifice