

Going Through the Motions With an Unaffected Heart

Hos 6:4-7 ESV What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your **love is like a morning cloud**, like the **dew that goes early away**. 5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. 6 For I desire **steadfast love** and **not sacrifice**, the **knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings**.

- **Jesus quoted from this verse twice - in Matthew - we will look at that in a minute**
- **What happened?** They were going through the motions but their heart was not affected.
- What are two things were overlooked or missing (**steadfast love & knowledge of God**)

David understood this concept when he was confessing his sin of adultery, deceit and murder

- Psa 51:16-17 ESV For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The **sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.

Samuel understood this when Saul kept the best to offer as sacrifice rather than obey the LORD

- 1Sa 15:22 ESV And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams**.

Let's look at the times Jesus quoted this scripture

Jesus quoted this scripture--the pride on their religious purity left them unable to view people the way God views them - they had sacrifice (going through the motions - but had no mercy)

- Mat 9:9-13 ESV As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "**Follow me.**" And he rose and followed him. 10 And as **Jesus reclined at table** in the house, behold, **many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples**. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "**Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?**" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, **'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'** For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Application

- They sought out ceremonial purity - but it kept them from mercy and loving the people he came for
- Pharisees were so tuned in to being righteous, they missed the heart of God, and intention of scripture "**go and learn what this means**"
- They saw the people as sinners to be avoided, Jesus saw them as the sick who need a doctor
- We could find ourselves going through the motions - but **missing love and knowledge of God**

Jesus quoted this scripture--their adherence to religious practices and pharisaic rules left them unable to discern truth and the heart of God--they kept the sabbath rules, they did not know God

- Mat 12:1-8 ESV At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." 3 He said to them, "**Have you not read** what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, **which it was not lawful for him** to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or **have you not read in the Law** how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, **'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice'**, you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

- Something greater than the temple is here - Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath - who really has the authority to interpret Sabbath law?
- If you continue reading vs 9-14 Jesus goes into the synagogue and there was a man with a withered hand -- "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" -- If you have a sheep that falls into a pit on the sabbath will you not lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep? - It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath"

Mar 12:28-34 ESV And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "**Which commandment is the most important of all?**" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall **love the Lord** your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **There is no other commandment greater than these.**" 32 And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. 33 And **to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**" 34 And when Jesus saw that **he answered wisely,** he said to him, "**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**" And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Application:

God

- 1) God desires love, obedience and knowledge of God -- not just religious actions or motions
 - a) Oh I go to church, or I pray, or I read the bible, or I fast (are these ALL God is concerned about?)
- 2) Jesus pursues those who need a physician
- 3) We can be more like him when we have mercy, compassion and kindness

Man

- 4) It is easy to judge ourselves as better than others - like a Pharisee
- 5) It is easy to avoid those who are different than us - rather than show mercy
- 6) It is easy to rely on our religious actions at the expense of what is happening in our hearts
- 7) Pursue love and mercy and the knowledge of God