

I Desire Hesed and Not Sacrifice –Part 2

Matthew 12

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1. The Pharisees kept themselves separated from common people, holding strict devotion to Mosaic law. They had an external devotion to the Lord, but they are critiqued for having something not quite right on the inside. (Matthew 23:13-15)
2. The Pharisees know the law inside and out, but they fundamentally misunderstand what God desires. They're strict religious leaders who have things turned upside down.
3. When the Pharisees criticize the disciples for working on the Sabbath, He refers them to Hosea. They misunderstand what God desires of them; what He desires is *hesed*.
4. The Jewish people are commanded to keep the Sabbath as a testimony that God is creator (Exodus 20:11) and a merciful redeemer (Deuteronomy 5:15).
5. Jesus gives a first example to make His point that the Pharisees have a corrupt understanding of what God desires of them. Jesus is pointing out that their interpretation of the law is completely off because their understanding of God is completely off. (Matthew 12:3-4, 1 Samuel 21:1-6)
6. Jesus' second example is that on the Sabbath, the priests in the temple work but remain innocent. (Matthew 12:5)
7. Something greater than the temple is here. Jesus and the kingdom He brings is far greater than the old Temple.
8. The good of others, that *hesed* love, that *eleos* love, is more weighty & more important than sacrifice. You can follow the ritual laws, but if you neglect mercy while you do it, it's no good.
9. Jesus is what it means to "cease from work". He takes all your sins away, all of the things you're guilty of, and because of His mercy, He invites you to rest in Him.

GREEK WORDS

Exestin –What is right, is authorized, is permitted, is proper.

eleos; kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, *mercy, compassion, pity, clemency*.

katadikázō - to judge someone as definitely guilty and thus subject to punishment.

anapaúō –to cause someone to gain relief from toil, *cause to rest, refresh, revive*

QUOTES

“If you worked seven days a week in the hot sun to keep life and limb together, with scarcely any time for leisure and reflection, would you consider it burdensome if your God came to you with omnipotent authority and said, “I don’t want you to have to work so much. I want you to have a day a week to rest and enjoy what really counts in life. I promise to meet your needs with just six days of work”? That is not a cruel command. It is a gracious gift.” - **John Piper**