

**Matthew 9:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He \*said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. <sup>10</sup> Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.*" <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

"Go and learn what this means....." Jesus just gave the Pharisees a homework assignment.

**1 Samuel 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.

Saul professed complete obedience to the Lord, but had made his own "reasonable" changes to the command of God.

This was bad enough, but when confronted, Saul preferred to sacrifice to God rather than repent of wrongdoing.

This was a sure indicator of a proud, hard heart, and this act of disobedience cost him the kingdom.

Ultimately, God would have us listen to His voice, know His heart, and act in mercy- not justify ourselves religiously.

**Psalms 40:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. <sup>8</sup> I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

This does not come naturally. It is a work of the Spirit that is refined as we listen and obey God.

**Matthew 20:29-34**

<sup>29</sup> As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. <sup>30</sup> And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>31</sup> The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" <sup>32</sup> And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" <sup>33</sup> They \*said to Him, "Lord, *we want* our eyes to be opened." <sup>34</sup> Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

The disciples, some of whom had been influenced by the Pharisees, saw things very differently than Jesus did.

**John 9:1-3**

<sup>9</sup> As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "*It was neither that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

If we do not learn to hear from God ourselves, we will always end up in a place of judgment.

Sometimes we will be right, sometimes we will be wrong, but NO ONE will receive grace though us.

Moving on Sunday Story

How are the Pharisees doing since receiving their homework assignment from Jesus?

**Matthew 12:1-8**

**12** At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of *grain* and eat. <sup>2</sup> But when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath." <sup>3</sup> But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? <sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? <sup>6</sup> But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> But if you had known what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

There was a greater revelation of Jesus hidden in simple faith, and trusting the heart of God our Father.

If we learn instead to hear the voice of God- the voice of mercy- we will fulfill His will every time.

Tithe and medicine story

"Of course I will"

**Luke 5:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> While He was in one of the cities, behold, *there was* a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." <sup>13</sup> And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him.

Jesus stands ready to extend mercy to us- He is willing!

What do you expect that God's response will be to the thing you are asking of Him?

Hear the voice of the merciful Savior. He is speaking now.

"Of course I will."