Mat 87

The rituals and lip service of serving God

MY MOM….Steve’s wife Barbra

For info on the June 29th & 30th Bible conference I have a video on my website PRBministry.org ….along with a political commentary on the CIA I suggest anyone who wants to have that info for the conference or wake up to what is coming concerning our three letter agencies like the CIA….NSA & FBI to go and watch those two videos on my website.

Mat 9:9 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.

Mat 9:10 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.

/Mat 9:11 **When the Pharisees saw *this****,* they said to His disciples, **“Why is your Teacher eating** with the tax collectors and sinners?”\

Mat 9:12 But when Jesus heard *this,* He said, “*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

Mat 9:13 “But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

In verse 11 there is an outrage in what the Pharisees are stating. You see they are already in the process of a ritual fast which they attributed to spiritual growth they fasted twice a week in an open display of spiritual maturity and praise…or so the thought!

On top of that Jesus is not only eating…He is eating & drinking wine with common street criminals and shady characters.

Talk about a double whammy for the legalistic religious crowd to have to see!

TLJC blatantly states that I’m here to save the sick you arrogant fools!

 Those who truly need help are the ones you might want to focus on…

if you are a doctor and you arrive on the scene of an accident you deal with the terminal before you deal with the minor bumps and bruises.

The common street people didn’t have the amount of knowledge that the so-called Jewish scholars and religious leaders had.

Jesus actually had almost a blank slate when it came to teaching and preaching because this crowd had no prior concerns about religion and spirituality.

Sometimes that is the easier of the folks to evangelize too!

No preconceived notions ELABORATE!

His concern in this moment was for these people...He doesn’t even want to concern Himself with the great Jewish scholars just yet.

/In fact as part of divine sarcasm we see in verse 13 — Jesus also answers from scripture. *“But go and learn what this means”* — ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ (Prophet Hosea).\

This is what you call rubbing their noses in it; They should have already studied Hosea.

Jesus says to go to the Bible; they should have studied the Bible.

Now the quotation from Hosea: “I will have mercy, not sacrifice.” The scribes, Pharisees and the priests had sacrifices that day; Jesus said: “I will have mercy, not sacrifice.” What does He mean?

/Mercy is grace in action. When Jesus went to the house of Matthew and opened Himself up to hear them and speak to them, that was true mercy. The Scribes and the Pharisees chanting and offering a sacrifice ritual, was all a show. (Arrogance in action!)\

They were going through the ritual; Jesus was exercising grace.

In Capernaum He will not deal with the scribes, the Pharisees and the chief priests. He will go to Jerusalem and deal with them on their own ground and use a different approach. Here He is dealing with the prostitutes and the tax collectors.

Because TLJC did not judge or ignore the people at Matthew’s house many became born again & saved that very day!

The rituals and religious nonsense had become all the legalistic Jews understood and it became their staple of worship and spirituality. This gives no mercy and grace to those less fortunate and those who were hidden in the shadows of that street life.

/Pro 21:3 To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD **more than sacrifice.**\

The Jewish population all depended upon the leaders like the Scribes, Chief Priests and Pharisees to guide them…yet they didn’t even follow the OT scriptures properly.

Here’s what the prophet Hosea said;

/Hos 6:6 For **I delight in loyalty** rather than sacrifice, and **in the knowledge** of God rather than burnt offerings.\

Turn to Micah chapter 6.

Speaking of OT prophets let’s look at Micah.

The interesting principle you will come to acknowledge once you see what the Scribes and Pharisees focused on was that it was never about understanding the coming Messiah and developing a relationship with Him...it was all about making laws and guidelines out of every scripture and commandment so they could try and stay in those painted lines.

REPEAT

God is speaking through His prophet Micah and not only warning His people but putting the question to them as to why do they continue to rebel…have I not done enough to prove my love for you?

Mic 6:3 “My people, what have I done to you, and how have I wearied you? Answer Me.

Mic 6:4 “Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam.

Mic 6:5 “My people, remember now
What Balak king of Moab counseled
And what Balaam son of Beor answered him, a*nd* from Shittim to Gilgal, so that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

The Israelites attempting to go into the promised were blocked by the Edomites first and so they wanted to pass thru the area the Moabites occupied.

The King of the Moabites hired a prophet called Balaam and he was supposed to curse the Jews.

But Balaam couldn’t do it. The truth of God’s word and God’s people was something Balaam couldn’t speak against even though he wanted to.

Balaam was like a prophet for hire.

So now what does God require of man?

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come to the LORD a*nd* bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?

Mic 6:7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

/Mic 6:8 **He has told you**, O man, what is good: And what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly** with **your God**?\

Do you realize since the Garden of Eden God has wanted nothing more than for humanity to have a love relationship with Him.

A relationship with no other distractions or false idols getting in the way.

A relationship based on choice…our free will and God’s plan laid out for us if we are interested.

/It is our flesh that seeks human good and cosmic works such as following laws and rituals in order to please God. He has shown us throughout His word that it is only faith and love in Him that leads us to divine good that has lasting value.\

We see words like, Loyalty…. knowledge justice ….kindness and humility.

Meaning that these have greater value to God than any ritual or law.

Turn to Jeremiah chapter 7 with me.

/1Sam 15:22 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**, a*nd* to heed than the fat of rams.\

The OT was designed as a foundation of the spiritual life and it held shadows of what was to come…it had almost every principle and ritual carefully crafted to point to the person and work of TLJC.

Within those principles & rituals was also a glimpse of the future relationship that we are destined to live in as born again Bels.

Jer 7:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jer 7:2 “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house and proclaim there this word and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship the LORD!’”

/Jer 7:3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “**Amend** *(yata*)your **ways** and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.\

YAH-TAV is in HIPHEL stem meaning to be in the right…to make something beautiful… perfect or put it in the right.

It has a sense of doing something thoroughly and making it right.

Anytime a Bel fails or misses the mark he or she simply needs to take responsibility and hand it over to God…no excuses… no lies….an honest open relationship that moves forward to make things right.

Exactly what we just covered in our last 3 or 4 lessons.

/Jer 7:4 “Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, ‘This is the **temple** of the LORD, the **temple** of the LORD, the **temple** of the LORD.’\

The fact that we have three references here to the temple is very interesting and much deeper than what it looks like on the surface.

3 represents the Trinity which is obvious to many Bible students…but there is 3 sections of the temple in view here. The courts on the outside, the holy place itself and then the inner section called the Holy of holies which housed the Ark of the Covenant.

It is here that they could worship 3 times a year but what is being exposed is it was just a ritual.

This ritual is something they did and gave lip service to while they began to follow other gods and mix and mingle outside the plan of God.

They thought that if they did the ritual it was enough to keep God happy.

The ritual would guarantee their safety.

How many Bels today have this exact same attitude?

Prophets like Jeremiah warned the people of God as they went astray and he tried to call them back.

Yet the people of God had a history of being stubborn and having this sense of security that as long as they gave lip service to God and followed the rituals and had that temple among them everything was going to be blessed.

This of course blew up in their face more than once over the course of human history, but it was exactly what TLJC saw when He began His ministry.

/Jesus looked at what the Scribes and Pharisee’s promoted and how arrogant they were and it was no different then what their forefathers had done in OT.\

Ritual without the reality!

Jer 7:5 “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor,

Jer 7:6 *if* you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin,

Jer 7:7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

Jer 7:8 “Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail.

This is a statement that means do not trust the other belief systems and foreigners who come in with new ideas and false gods.

They had rebuilt the temple and now it was just a show place for ritual because many of the Jews were living a lifestyle outside the plan of God, following foreigners.

Jer 7:9“Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known,

Jer 7:10 then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—that you may do all these abominations?

Jer 7:11 “Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it,*” declares the LORD.

Jer 7:12 “But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.

Shiloh is reference to when they first entered into the Promised Land (Canaan) and they set up the temple.

/Jer 7:13 “And now, because you have done all these things,” declares the LORD, “and **I spoke to you**, rising up early and speaking, but **you did not hear**, and I called you but **you did not answer**,\

God speaks through His word…at that time also through the Prophets as well and teachers…God speaks through the message of the Bible and those men who teach it accurately.

Unfortunately God’s people often ignore the word of God.

Jer 7:14 therefore, I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.

Jer 7:15“I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the offspring of Ephraim.

Jer 7:16“As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you.

This is a pretty serious message that Jeremiah is told to preach. Hard to believe people would still ignore it…but they do.

/The ritual of attending church, entering a building and then following a routine means nothing to God if your heart is not fully His. The act of being a Christian a few times a month is nothing more than what the Pharisee’s & Scribes did within this study of Matthew’s gospel.\

ELABORATE

/Love, loyalty, knowledge, truth & obedience have much greater value to God than a Bel who follows a ritual or professes to be a Christian yet his/her lifestyle is opposite to what Bible Doctrine teaches us.\

You can fake a lot of people out and lead many people along to believe that you are a Christian but you can’t fool God.