

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?



An Overview of Self-righteousness:

- Comes from the flesh.
- Produced by pride.
- The flesh is at enmity with God. Cf. Rom. 8:7
- Self-righteousness is ignorant of God's righteousness cf. Rom. 10:3
- Self-righteousness suppresses the truth cf. Rom. 1
- Unbelievers are inherently self-righteous.
- Believers can become self-righteous. (legalism!)

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

4. The Opposition to the King 11:2 – 13:53

(Matthew 12:1-21)

*“Confronting Self-righteousness
Before its Deathly Consequence”*

1. Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8
2. Self-righteousness produces self-centeredness vv. 9-13
3. Self-righteousness produces God-hostility vv. 14-21

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

A. Observations:

- The setting v. 1
- The accusation v. 2
- Jesus' response vv. 3-8

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #1 – David and the showbread vv. 3-4
(cf. 1 Sam. 21:1-6)

- David was on the run.
- He and his men were hungry.
- David requested provisions from the priest.
- Only the showbread was available.

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #1 – The conclusion:

- David's eating illustrated a concession that the law permitted – life is more holy than bread”
- Human life takes precedence over ceremonial law. The righteousness of the law is not violated.

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #2 – The priests and the temple duties v. 5

- The law provided for the priests to “profane” the Sabbath to fulfill their duties in the temple.
- The work of the temple overrides the sanctity of the Sabbath.

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #3 – “One greater than the temple” v. 6

- The work of the kingdom overrides the sanctity of the Sabbath.
- This is a lesser to greater argument.
- If the work of the temple overrides the sanctity of the Sabbath, how much more the work of the kingdom?

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #4 –

Self-righteousness vs. true righteousness v. 7

- “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”
- Cf. Micah 6:5-8

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

Jesus' responds in 5 ways:

Response #5 –

The conclusion of the Son of man's authority v. 8

- “for” (an explanatory conjunction making an inference)
- “the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”

1- Self-righteousness produces spiritual-darkness vv. 1-8

B. Summary/Application:

- The religious leaders couldn't recognize God's righteousness because of their self-righteousness.
- Self-righteousness is both a cause and by-product of suppressing the truth. (a vicious cycle)
- How do we avoid self-righteousness in the form of legalism?
- Understand grace and the law of liberty!

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2. Self-righteousness produces self-centeredness vv. 9-13

A. Observations:

- Jesus departs and teaches in their synagogue v. 9
- The Pharisee's trap v. 10
- Jesus exposes their hypocrisy v. 11
- Jesus exposes their self-centeredness v. 12
- Jesus exposes true-righteousness v. 13

2. Self-righteousness produces self-centeredness vv. 9-13

B. Summary/Application:

- The leaders cared more for their self-righteousness than for the man's situation.
- At the core... self-righteousness only cares about SELF.
- Self-righteousness kept them from true ministry.
- How can our self-righteousness keep us from true ministry?

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A. Observations:

- The Pharisees plot v. 14
- Jesus continues ministering v. 15
- Jesus' warning v. 16
- The Isaiah fulfillment vv. 17-21

3. Self-righteousness produces God-hostility vv. 14-21

The Isaiah fulfillment – cf. Isaiah 42:1-3

- Verse 18 see Isaiah 42:1
- Verse 19 see Isaiah 42:2
- Verse 20 see Isaiah 42:3
- Verse 21 see Isaiah 42:6d (cf. Mark 3:6-12)

3. Self-righteousness produces God-hostility vv. 14-21

B. Summary/Application:

- The religious leaders sought to eliminate Jesus v. 14
- The flesh is at war with God. (see Gal. 5:16-21)
- “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble”
- The prescription that eliminates self-righteousness is humility!

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