

The Gospel According to Luke - Part 8

GOD'S LAW

PART 2

An Eternal Gift

READ LUKE 16:14-17

INTRODUCTION

It was common for the Pharisees to be more focused on the Law than on the people and God's love for them. Something that many still struggle with today is the thought that obedience to the Law of God fulfills the love of God and while they may be correct in that, God's Law guides us practically towards love, obedience to the Law is only part of the equation. We must also practice the forgiveness, mercy and grace of God to love as He does. This is where the Pharisees fell short. In speaking to them about money, Jesus pointed out that they were more focused on outward behavior than inward change.

Following laws and rules can be like grocery shopping. We have a list, we go to the store and we find what is written on the list, buy it, and go home. Obedience to God's Law can be similar when we treat it as an obtainable list. God's Law says "Don't murder" so, I don't murder. His Law commands that I rest once a week on the Sabbath so I take Saturday off. While obedience to God's Law is important, we do ourselves a huge disservice when we try and achieve it without understanding that God's Law was given to us for the purpose of glorifying Him and helping others come into closer relationship with Him as well.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that God's Law cannot be changed, done away with, or even gotten rid of. It is an eternal statute. (Psalm 19:9-11) The Pharisees tried to hold people under their sets of rules and regulations instead of helping others to follow God through worship and glorification. This is a danger to us today. We must not expect others to follow our rules on how to follow Christ but allow Him to dictate those rules. We must be more focused on the glorification of Jesus Christ than anything else and that does include following His Law. It also includes showing grace, mercy, and love to those who do not match up to what we believe they should be.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it is easy for people to try and create a harder way for others to follow God? How do we avoid doing that in our own lives?
2. What is the difference between obedience through obligation and obedience in joy? Which do you experience in your own walk with Christ?
3. Do you ever treat God's Law as though it is a shopping list? Have you ever tried to fulfill His Laws under your own power? How did that go?
4. Read Psalm 19:9-11. What does this passage tell us about the importance of God's Law? How can we reflect on and change the way we treat the Law of God?
5. What does Jesus do for us concerning God's Law? What does that mean for our obedience to Him? How can we glorify Him in the Law?

WRAP UP

God's Law should be studied. According to Scripture we should meditate on it day and night. We have been told that doing this will lead to all sorts of bad things because it can lead to legalism and pharisaical tendencies. This is not entirely untrue but, it is so important that we dwell on God's Word so that we can come closer to Him and enjoy fellowship with Him as well as knowing that He will conform us into His image the more that we follow Him.