

Ministry Is Mercy, Not Judgmentalism

Luke 6:1-11

1. Legalism Cares More About Rules Than Needs (6:1-2)

¹ On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. ² But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"

2. Mercy Helps Those In Need, Not Antagonizing Them (3-6; cf. Mt 12:3-8; Mk 2:27; Hos 6:6; 1 Sam 21:1-7)

³ And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" ⁵ And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

3. Legalism Seeks To Accuse Rather Than Show Mercy (6-7)

⁶ On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

4. Mercy Helps While Legalism Destroys (8-10; cf. Mic 6:8)

⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored.

5. Legalism Is Threatened By Jesus' Mercy (11; cf. Mk 3:6)

¹¹ But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Conclusion:

- God isn't looking for perfect faith, He came to have mercy on the sick and sinful.
- You don't have to prove who you are at church. Receive and give mercy.
- If we really know Jesus as our Savior, we would emulate Him not try to exceed Him. Legalism exceed Christ's and the Bible's authority.

Discussion:

- Is our Lord's Day about meeting needs or a day we compare ourselves to others?
- In our insecurities before God, what are the wrong ways and the right ways to deal with them?
- How could we lose sight of mercy at church?