

LOGF NOTES 09.30.18

The Book of Mark: All Sinners Welcome

Tim Hobson, Lead Pastor

Hosea 6:6 (NKJV) For I desire mercy not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Highlights of Mark 2:

1. The healing of a paralytic:

God is the only one who can both heal and forgive (and deliver)!

God saves! (Mark 2:1-12)

Forgiveness, healing & deliverance are impossible to man, but easy to God.

2. The hanging out with Matthew's sinner friends:

Jesus came for the lost, the hurting, the needy, the sinner... (Mark2:17).

Everyone needs God. No one is self-sufficient. No one can self-save.

Matthew 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

"Mercy, Not Sacrifice"

To observe religious rituals without having a faithful love of God and mankind is an empty faith. To rely on the observances of outward rituals to be right with God and not to have inward transformation and obedience of the heart is to merely be religious.

Jesus did not come to establish a religion, but a relationship.

Jesus is acknowledging the fact that it is possible to substitute a genuine relationship with God which leads to obedience of the heart with a religion that relies on outward rituals for personal piety.

"Knowledge of God"

To have a relationship with God of trusting and obeying. Obedience and trust in God is to know God.

Jesus is not condemning or discontinuing the sacrifices. He is stating that those sacrifices only have meaning through the knowledge of God. Void of a relationship with God and a heart of obedience, the rituals themselves are powerless. The rituals are not a substitute for genuine mercy, love and faith. With a relationship with God and a heart of obedience, the rituals build our faith and our relationship with God and change our hearts to be like God's heart.

Why is Jesus hanging out with sinners?

As a doctor of life, Jesus goes to those who need life.

Does Jesus condone sin?

This is not about Jesus turning a blind eye to sin. This is about Jesus coming with a cure for sin. What is this cure? Repentance and trust in God, not self.

Matthew 9:13 (NKJV) But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Some people are confused about how to love sinners.

To love a sinner is to offer the cure to them for their sin...not to condone their sin and passively enable their continued suffering.

3. Lord of the Sabbath:

Jesus teaches us that God's word is life, not rules (Mark 2:27).

Jesus came to establish a relationship with God and man, not a religion.

In Jewish law, it was an agreed standard when a negative command and a positive command contradicted each other, the positive command would take precedence over the negative one.

i.e. Negative: Do not work on the Sabbath. Positive: Save a life.

Mark 2:23-28 Picking grain was technically harvesting...do not work on the Sabbath.

Allowing someone to eat was alleviating their suffering of hunger...save a life.

Jesus was consistent with the true intent of the law, which is to save human life.

The law of God is never intended to be restrictive or burdensome, rather life promoting.

Life Group Discussion:

1. How does God view people (sinners)?
2. How do you view people (sinners)? Are you angry at them? Are you trying to avoid them? Are you judgmental towards them? Are you driven to love them? To reach them? Do you have mercy toward them?
3. How did you come to the point of trusting your life to God? Through fear? Through threats? Through anger? Through love? Through mercy? Through truth?
4. How does God view sin? What is God's agenda toward sin? How do you view sin?
5. Discuss the word "tolerance" and how it has affected our society. Is tolerance the same as love?
6. Do you have a relationship with God or a religion? Have you struggled to keep your faith relational without slipping into religious ritual devoid of meaning? How can we keep our faith alive and fresh?
7. Memorize this week's verse: Hosea 6:6 "For I desire mercy not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.