

¹ON A SABBATH, WHILE HE WAS GOING THROUGH THE GRAINFIELDS, HIS DISCIPLES PLUCKED AND ATE SOME HEADS OF GRAIN, RUBBING THEM IN THEIR HANDS. ²BUT SOME OF THE PHARISEES SAID, "WHY ARE YOU DOING WHAT IS NOT LAWFUL TO DO ON THE SABBATH?" ³AND JESUS ANSWERED THEM, "HAVE YOU NOT READ WHAT DAVID DID WHEN HE WAS HUNGRY, HE AND THOSE WHO WERE WITH HIM: ⁴HOW 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?" ⁵AND HE SAID TO THEM, "THE SON OF MAN IS LORD OF THE SABBATH." ⁶ON ANOTHER SABBATH, HE ENTERED THE SYNAGOGUE AND WAS TEACHING, AND A MAN WAS THERE WHOSE RIGHT HAND WAS WITHERED.

.001.tiff

⁷AND 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. ⁸BUT HE KNEW THEIR THOUGHTS, AND HE SAID TO THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND, "COME AND STAND HERE." AND HE ROSE AND STOOD THERE. ⁹AND 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?" ¹⁰AND AFTER LOOKING AROUND AT THEM ALL HE SAID TO HIM, "STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND." AND HE DID SO, AND HIS HAND WAS RESTORED. ¹¹BUT THEY WERE FILLED WITH FURY AND DISCUSSED WITH ONE ANOTHER WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO JESUS. —LUKE 6:1-11

.002.tiff

"WHEN MOST OF US HEAR THE WORD, PHARISEE, WE CONJURE UP IMAGES OF HYPOCRITICAL, NARROW-MINDED, PUFFED UP SPIRITUAL LOSERS. BUT IN JESUS' DAY BEING CALLED A PHARISEE, WAS A BADGE OF HONOR. IT WAS A COMPLIMENT NOT A SLAM. THAT'S BECAUSE 1ST CENTURY PHARISEES EXCELLED IN EVERYTHING WE ADMIRE SPIRITUALLY. THEY WERE ZEALOUS FOR GOD, COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THEIR FAITH. THEY WERE THEOLOGICALLY ASTUTE, MASTERS OF BIBLICAL TEXTS. THEY FASTIDIOUSLY OBEYED THE MOST OBSCURE COMMANDS. THEY EVEN MADE UP EXTRA RULES JUST IN CASE THEY WERE MISSING SOMETHING. THEIR EMBRACE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES WERE SECOND TO NONE." —LARRY OSBORNE

.003.tiff

FOR I TELL YOU, UNLESS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEEDS THAT OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. —MATTHEW 5:20

.004.tiff

I. CLARIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE SAVIOR

.005.tiff

IF YOU GO INTO YOUR NEIGHBOR'S STANDING GRAIN,
YOU MAY PLUCK THE EARS WITH YOUR HAND, BUT YOU SHALL
NOT PUT A SICKLE TO YOUR NEIGHBOR'S STANDING GRAIN.

—DEUTERONOMY 23:25

.006.tiff

THE SABBATH WAS MADE
FOR MAN, NOT MAN
FOR THE SABBATH.

—MARK 2:27

THE SON OF MAN IS
LORD OF THE SABBATH.

—LUKE 6:5

.007.tiff

“NO ONE STARTS OUT WITH A DESIRE TO BECOME A
PHARISEE. THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS. WE ALL KNOW THAT.
IN THE SAME WAY, NO ONE EVER LOOKS IN THE MIRROR AND
SEES A PHARISEE. I BET YOU HAVEN'T EITHER. THE WORD
ALWAYS DESCRIBES SOMEONE ELSE. BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT
ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES ARE MADE UP OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE
YOU AND ME, PEOPLE WHO LOVE GOD, LOVE THE SCRIPTURES
AND ARE TRYING THEIR BEST TO LIVE THEM. THE THING
TO NOTE ABOUT ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES IS JUST THAT—
THEY'RE ACCIDENTAL. THEY ARE LIKE DINNER AT DENNY'S.
NO ONE PLANS TO GO THERE. YOU JUST END UP THERE.”

—LARRY OSBORNE

.008.tiff

2. CONSIDER THE ATTITUDES OF THE PHARISEES

.009.tiff

• BIBLICAL LITERACY vs. SPIRITUAL MATURITY

.010.tiff

“THERE IS NOTHING PRAISEWORTHY IN A FEEL GOOD, LUKEWARM, CONSUMER CHRISTIANITY THAT NEVER ASKS US TO CHANGE OR DO ANYTHING. IT MAKES JESUS GAG. BUT WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THERE IS NOTHING PRAISEWORTHY IN A SPIRITUAL ZEAL THAT LOOKS DOWN ON OTHERS OR SUBLIMATES JESUS' GRACE AND MERCY IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE OUR RADICAL OBEDIENCE AND SACRIFICE. THAT TOO MAKES JESUS GAG.” —LARRY OSBORNE

.011.tiff

¹JUDGE NOT, THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED. ²FOR WITH THE JUDGMENT YOU PRONOUNCE YOU WILL BE JUDGED, AND WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU. ³WHY DO YOU SEE THE SPECK THAT IS IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE, BUT DO NOT NOTICE THE LOG THAT IS IN YOUR OWN EYE? ⁴OR HOW CAN YOU SAY TO YOUR BROTHER, “LET ME TAKE THE SPECK OUT OF YOUR EYE,” WHEN THERE IS THE LOG IN YOUR OWN EYE? ⁵YOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST TAKE THE LOG OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY TO TAKE THE SPECK OUT OF YOUR BROTHER'S EYE. —MATTHEW 7:1-5

.012.tiff

**“BIBLICAL LITERACY DOES NOT EQUATE TO
CHRISTIAN MATURITY.”**

.013.tiff

²²BUT BE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY, DECEIVING YOURSELVES. ²³FOR IF ANYONE IS A HEARER OF THE WORD AND NOT A DOER, HE IS LIKE A MAN WHO LOOKS INTENTLY AT HIS NATURAL FACE IN A MIRROR. ²⁴FOR HE LOOKS AT HIMSELF AND GOES AWAY AND AT ONCE FORGETS WHAT HE WAS LIKE. ²⁵BUT THE ONE WHO LOOKS INTO THE PERFECT LAW, THE LAW OF LIBERTY, AND PERSEVERES, BEING NO HEARER WHO FORGETS BUT A DOER WHO ACTS, HE WILL BE BLESSED IN HIS DOING.

—JAMES 1:22-25

.014.tiff

• PERSONAL CONVICTION vs. MERCIFUL COMPASSION

.015.tiff

“THE PROBLEM IS NOT SPIRITUAL ZEAL... WE’RE ALL CALLED TO BE ZEALOUS FOR THE LORD. THE PROBLEM IS UNALIGNED SPIRITUAL PASSION, A ZEAL FOR THE LORD THAT FAILS TO LINE UP WITH THE TOTALITY OF SCRIPTURE... WE TEND TO SEE THIS AS A PROBLEM IN OTHERS AND FAIL TO SEE IT IN THE MIRROR... THAT’S BECAUSE FOR MOST OF US, AREAS OF BIBLICALLY UNALIGNED AND OVERZEALOUS FAITH ARE UNINTENTIONAL. THEY ARE THE RESULTS OF BLIND SPOTS, SIN SPOTS... EITHER WAY, IT MESSES UP EVERYTHING. IT HURTS EVERYONE, THE OVERZEALOUS AND THE VICTIMS OF THEIR ZEAL.” —LARRY OSBORNE

.016.tiff

FOR I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD MORE THAN
BURNT OFFERINGS. —HOSEA 6:6 (NKJV)

.017.tiff

• MY HOLINESS vs. THY HUMILIATION

.018.tiff

⁹HE ALSO TOLD THIS PARABLE TO SOME WHO TRUSTED IN THEMSELVES THAT THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS, AND TREATED OTHERS WITH CONTEMPT: ¹⁰“TWO MEN WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY, ONE A PHARISEE AND THE OTHER A TAX COLLECTOR. ¹¹THE PHARISEE, STANDING BY HIMSELF, PRAYED THUS: ‘GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT LIKE OTHER MEN, EXTORTIONERS, UNJUST, ADULTERERS, OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR. ¹²I FAST TWICE A WEEK; I GIVE TITHES OF ALL THAT I GET.’ ¹³BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR, STANDING FAR OFF, WOULD NOT EVEN LIFT UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, BUT BEAT HIS BREAST, SAYING, ‘GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME, A SINNER!’ ¹⁴I TELL YOU, THIS MAN WENT DOWN TO HIS HOUSE JUSTIFIED, RATHER THAN THE OTHER. FOR EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLLED, BUT THE ONE WHO HUMBLDES HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.” —LUKE 18:9-14

.019.tiff

“THE PHARISEES NEVER DOUBTED THEIR SELF-APPOINTED ROLE AS GOD’S JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER IN ALL THINGS RELATED TO THE TORAH (LAW)... OVER TIME THEY COULD NO LONGER DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEIR MAN-MADE INTERPRETATIONS AND TRADITIONS AND THE GOD-GIVEN LAW.”
—CHUCK SWINDOLL

.020.tiff

3. CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR LIVES

.021.tiff

“THAT’S A COURAGEOUS AND INSIGHTFUL QUESTION—ONE THAT REFLECTS A DESIRE FOR GENUINE HUMILITY AND TRANSFORMATION. THE PHARISEES IN SCRIPTURE WERE KNOWN NOT JUST FOR RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE OR OUTWARD MORALITY, BUT FOR A HEART POSTURE THAT OFTEN MISSED THE POINT OF GOD’S GRACE, LOVE, AND JUSTICE. JESUS’ CRITIQUES OF THE PHARISEES CAN BE TURNED INTO DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS TO HELP REFLECT ON OUR OWN HEARTS.”

—ChatGPT

.022.tiff

1. AM I HIDING SIN WHILE PROJECTING HOLINESS? (MATTHEW 23:25)
2. DO I JUDGE OTHERS HARSHLY, BUT EXCUSE MYSELF? (MATTHEW 7:5)
3. AM I OBSESSED WITH RELIGIOUS RITUALS BUT NEGLECT SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITIES? (MATTHEW 23:23)
4. DO I SEEK PRAISE FROM PEOPLE INSTEAD OF APPROVAL FROM GOD? (MATTHEW 23:5)
5. DO I RESIST CORRECTION OR ACCOUNTABILITY? (MATTHEW 21:45)
6. DO I SPEND MORE TIME DEBATING THEOLOGY THAN SEEKING INTIMACY WITH GOD AND LIKENESS TO CHRIST? (JOHN 5:39-40)
7. DO I FEEL VALIDATED WHEN OTHERS MESS UP? (JOHN 8:7)
8. DO I THINK I’M “EXCEPTIONAL?” (LUKE 18:11)

.023.tiff

“FOR THE GOSPEL TO REMAIN THE GOSPEL, GRACE AND MERCY MUST REMAIN FRONT AND CENTER. WHEN THE RADICALNESS OF MY COMMITMENT, THE INTENSITY OF MY ZEAL, OR THE EXTENT OF MY PERSONAL SACRIFICES BECOME A MEANS TO RECEIVE OR MAINTAIN GOD’S ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL, THE GOODNESS OF THE GOSPEL IS NO LONGER GOOD NEWS TO ANYONE EXCEPT THOSE OF US WHO EXCEL.” —LARRY OSBORNE

.024.tiff

FOR OUR SAKE HE MADE HIM TO BE SIN WHO KNEW
NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. —2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

.025.tiff