Selective Morality

JR Bronger · Matthew 23:23–24

INTRODUCTION

- Very often we're not real sure as to why he had such personal confrontations with the Pharisees.
- In Matthew chapter 23, we sort of get a glimpse of what their problems were, or at least what many of their problems stemmed from.

1 You Pay Tithe of Mint, Anise and Cumin

Matthew 23:23–24; Deuteronomy 14

- Have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith.
- These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone, blind guides who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel.
- He reminds them that they're doing something that actually the Bible in Deuteronomy chapter 14 indicates that the Jews ought to be doing. And that is tithing.
- They lay these seeds out on a table, and they would count ten of them out, and they'd give one to God.

2 The Weightier Matters: Justice, Mercy and Faith

Micah 6:8; Proverbs 21:3; Ephesians 4:32

- He that is God has shown you, O man, what is good and what the Lord require of you, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- The idea of justice here is the inward determination to behave honorably before God and before man.
- To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
- You are to love mercy. This is an internal love of tenderness.
- Being faithful to God in all things, humbly submitting to God and his word in all things. Not just picking and choosing.

3 Straining Out a Gnat and Swallowing a Camel

Leviticus 11:4

- Insofar as the Jewish law was concerned, both were considered to be unclean.
- They would pour the juice through that, and it would just catch out every impurity, including these little tiny insects.
- Jesus is saying, these ought you to have done without leaving the others undone.

4 This Is Selective Morality

- It was hypocrisy. But I refer to this as selective morality.
- Morally we'll do this. But morally we won't do this. Because to them it wasn't important.
- I will become my own judge as to what I deem to be important and what I deem to be essential.

- I think the greatest example of selective morality would be the preservation of baby seals. But we can destroy baby humans with abortion.
- Adultery's okay, but stealing is not. This is selective morality.

5 Is This Something We Often Have a Problem With?

Galatians 6:10; Galatians 5:19–21; Matthew 5:20

- I'm not concerned with the selective morality necessarily that's in the world. I'm concerned is this something that we often have a problem with?
- Am I taking every opportunity that I have to help someone who is in need?
- I reject divorce. I may treat my wife with contempt, and I may become verbally abusive to her.
- While I'm here every time the doors are open, when I leave here, I display an out-of-control temper and an out of control tongue.
- I would always attend every service of a gospel meeting. But I've never once walked across the street and invited my neighbor.
- Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let us not be selective in our morality.**

MY NOTES