

Bad Religion

WHEN FAITH LOSES FOCUS


Corresponds to the 4/30/23 sermon

Matthew 23:23-24

Big Idea: Jesus calls us to put our compassion into action and draw near to those needing mercy.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.

 Have someone in your group read **Matt. 23:23 - 24**

- What is the main message that Jesus is conveying in Matthew 23:23-24?
- What were the weightier matters that Jesus was accused of correcting?
- What is your understanding of Jesus' remarks about 'gnats and camels'?
- Where else do you see 'Justice and Mercy' emphasized in the bible?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized justice and mercy in his teachings?

GETTING PRACTICAL

1. In what ways do we see injustice and a lack of mercy in some churches today?
2. How can we use our understanding of mercy and justice when it comes to injustice and vulnerable people?
3. What is your understanding of a "faithful presence"? How can you practice it?
4. How can we show both justice and mercy towards ourselves and others?
5. What steps can you take to reject passive religion and instead have an intentional faith?

TAKING IT HOME

This week is Family Weekend. Use the following question as a discussion prompting with your family or in your personal reflection time:

Think of a time when you have seen someone treated unfairly. What could you do to help someone in that situation or to show compassion to people in similar circumstances in the future?