

## **Phighting Phoolish Pharisees**

To Jesus, the worst form of hypocrisy was to **ADD to His Gospel**.

**Pharisees focused on their heads and their hands**  
**They were externally pious but internally corrupt**  
**Jesus focused on the heart**

They followed the letter of the law – then went beyond it –  
to the point they started to **IGNORE** the **CORE MEANING** of the gospel.

They worked and worked – to the point where **THEY** were righteous  
And soon... **Edged God Out (EGO)**

The Pharisees come to Jesus and ask him 8 questions to trip Him up.

### **Pharisee Question 1: Jesus, why do you eat with sinners?**

Matthew 9:9-13

*As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew (Levi) sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me as My disciple, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk." And Matthew got up and followed Him.*

*Then as Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners including non-observant Jews, came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your Master eat with tax collectors and sinners? But when Jesus heard this, He said, "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but only those who are sick. Go and learn what this scripture means: 'I desire compassion for those in distress, and not animal sacrifice,' for I did not come to call to repentance the self-proclaimed righteous who see no need to change, but sinners, those who recognize their sin and actively seek forgiveness."*

The sick need the doctor – not the healthy – OR those who think they're healthy.

What standard do you use to determine if **you are** healthy?

Other believers? Other sinners? God?

Jesus quotes from Hosea 6:6 in His response:

*For I desire and delight in steadfast loyalty, faithfulness in the covenant relationship, rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*

### **Basic principles in this episode:**

1. **JESUS' MISSION:** I desire a covenant relationship with you – from the heart
2. **PHARISEE'S WEAKNESS:** Work as a means to righteousness – from the hands

As part of their outward religious piety, they had isolated themselves from the very people they were supposed to reach!

## **Pharisee Question 2: Jesus, why do you defy the Sabbath law?**

Matthew 12:1-8

*At that particular time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”*

*He said to them, “Have you not read in the Scriptures what David did when he was hungry, he and those who accompanied him – how he went into the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests only?*

*Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the sanctity of the Sabbath and yet are innocent? But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. And if you had only known what this statement means, ‘I desire compassion for those in distress, and not animal sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.*

*For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*

This was NOT a violation of **Old Testament Law** – but a violation of **Jewish traditions**:

Deuteronomy 23:25

*When you come into the standing grain of your neighbor, you may pluck the ears of grain with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain to harvest it.*

Jesus answered with 1 Samuel 21:1-6, where David ate the priestly bread.

### **Basic principles in this episode:**

1. JESUS’ DESIRE: I desire compassion/mercy – NOT sacrifice
2. PHARISEE’S WEAKNESS: Don’t worship the temple or the law – worship God – ME