

Red Letter Living

I Desire Mercy Rather Than Sacrifice

(Matthew 9:9-13)

- Introduction:
1. “Red Letter” editions of the Bible were invented by Louis Klopsch in 1900.
 2. Since that time, the use of “Red Letter Bibles” has become very popular.
 3. While these words are no more true than the other words in the Bible, and while this color distinction isn’t perfect, it does help us to hone in on the words of Jesus.
 4. For the disciple of Jesus, it would be a good exercise to pay closer attention to the words of the one we desire to follow.
 - a. Simply claiming allegiance to Jesus doesn’t make one a true disciple.
 - b. We must honor his person and his words (Mark 8:38).
 5. Let’s examine a “Red Letter” phrase spoken by Jesus, which challenges us still today.

I. The Statement

- A. “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” (Matthew 9:13).
- B. The background to this statement.
 1. Jesus had just called Matthew, a tax collector to follow him (Matthew 9:9).
 2. Not only did Jesus call Matthew, he ate a meal with several tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:10).
 3. The Pharisees saw this and questioned the disciples of Jesus as to why their teacher would eat with sinners (Matthew 9:11).
 4. Jesus answers their question and calls them to a higher way of life.

II. Lessons We Can Learn From His Statement

- A. What Jesus values and what we value are not always the same.
 1. (Hosea 6:6).
 2. (Matthew 23:30).
 3. (Numbers 23:19).
- B. Our place in life is among the “sick.”
 1. (Matthew 9:10-12).
- C. Even the “Learned” May Have a Few Things to Learn.
 1. (Matthew 9:13).
 2. (James 1:22).

- Conclusion:
1. If you are not yet a disciple of Jesus, I want you to know that he loves you and seeks your well-being.
 2. If you are already a disciple of Jesus, step up to the challenge of “Red Letter Living.”