

SCCC – THE RIGHT SACRIFICE

S - Scriptures

“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

C – Consideration

Matthew the tax collector had invited Jesus for dinner in his house. Of course, at this point, Matthew’s friends were irreligious and considered outcasts in the eyes of the Pharisees. It is important to say that Jesus didn’t deny their spiritual condition. Like Matthew, later on, another tax collector would get saved as well. Jesus said about Zacchaeus “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” The religious leaders completely missed out on the divine plan, due to their misunderstanding of the Scriptures and hardened hearts. The Messiah was walking and healing in their very presence but, their spiritual blindness made them unable to see Him; instead they would say “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.” In response to their various accusations, Jesus said that God desired mercy, not sacrifices. Few verses later two blind men would show Jesus’ point, “they followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!” Sinners can’t bring sacrifices to God. They are blind, they are crippled, they are spiritually broken, and they need God’s mercy. “Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” And their eyes were opened. “Meanwhile, “the disciples of John came to Him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?” This happened, few verses after Matthew’s calling. With their question, we see the “righteous” religious arguing with Jesus about their offerings and deeds such as fasting, in contrast with the sinners that were following him. Paraphrased they were saying, “We are bringing sacrifices to God, but Your sinful tax collectors and Your disciples are doing nothing.”

C – Commitment

The gospel is an amazing blessing God gave to men. We were all lost; there was no one who would be perfect, not even one. All of us had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There was on this earth no sacrifice that could save us. Annually, Israel under the Old Covenant, would kill thousands of animals to cover their sins, but their conscience would still be guilty because it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away their sins. Therefore, the only remedy for sinners was, is and will always be Jesus, the most precious gift of God, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” then, the only sacrifice I can bring after receiving His mercy is my gratitude: “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. “

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, when I was blind I tried to cover my sins with meaningless sacrifices. Like the Pharisees, I couldn't accept the idea of sinners receiving mercy without sacrifices. However, by Your mercy, my eyes were opened, and I could see my misery, and received the only sacrifice that could save my soul, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Help me to remember daily this most precious blessing I could ever receive from You. In His name, I pray. Amen.