

# Weightier Matters of the Law.

Matt. 23:23

## Introduction:

- A. Pharisees were strict to their outward religious observances – especially tithing and sacrifices.
  - 1. This is as it should of have been.
  - 2. But, they should have been as strict in matters of the heart and character.
- B. Parallel passages helps us understand the “weightier matters of the law.”
  - 1. Matthew 23:23 – Judgment (justice), mercy, faith.
  - 2. Luke 11:42 – Justice and love of God.
  - 3. Micah 6:6-8 – Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.”
  - 4. Love of God and walking humbly with God included in “faith.”
- C. It possible for Christians to fall into he same pattern of the Pharisees.
  - 1. Strictly adhere to the N. T. pattern for the church – Name, worship, work and organization.
  - 2. But, not so strict in matters of the heart: justice and mercy to others and faith and love to God.
- D. Let’s look closely to the 3 weightier matters if Matthew’s account:

## I. Justice

- A. Justice is the fair and right judgment and treatment of others.
  - 1. Jesus requires righteous judgment (John 7:24; cf. NIV)
    - a. Things are not always as they appear to be (Ill. Man and wheelbarrow)
    - b. Injustices often committed because of hasty judgment – take time to get the facts.
  - 2. Justice forbids discrimination based on racial, ethnic or social/economic factors
    - a. James makes it clear that such unfair treatment in the church is forbidden (Jas. 2:1-9)
    - b. One should be judged on basis of what he does, not on who he is or where from (1 Pet. 1:17)
- B. Justice is lovingly and gently holding one accountable for sins (Gal. 6:1)
  - 1. It is an injustice to allow one to continue in sin without rebuke (Jas. 5:19-20)
  - 2. It is also an injustice to wrongly charge one with sin (cf. Prov. 17:15)

## II. Mercy

- A. Mercy is has a wide range of meaning.
  - 1. It is compassion toward those less fortunate that ourselves - sick, afflicted and poor.
  - 2. It is compassion to one even though he does not deserve it.
  - 3. It is forgiving the penitent and
- B. Mercy is in our own best interest.
  - 1.