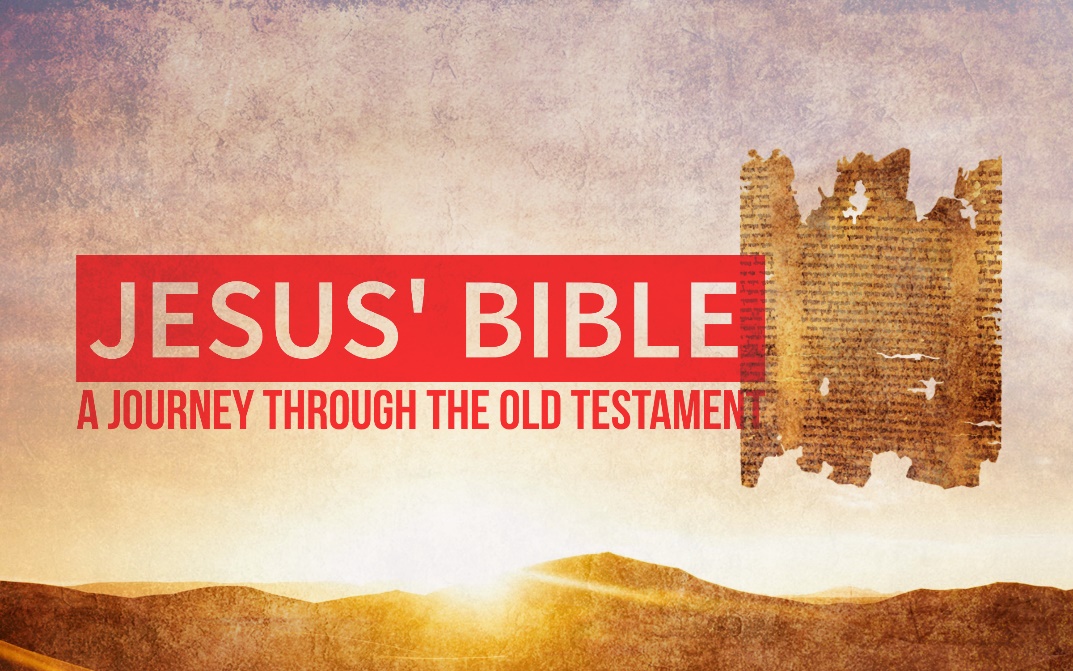
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**Jesus’ Bible:   
Mercy vs. Sacrifice**  
Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus

* Studied Old Testament as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Studied the Old Testament at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Studied the Old Testament at home with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament as a child
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament skillfully with religious leaders
* Affirmed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of many Old Testament people
* Treated the Old Testament as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Found large significance in even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ words in the OT

The Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus and it should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to us.

In Matthew 9:9-13 Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6

Sacrifice

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God
* Valued and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Scriptures
* Not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of mercy
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to mercy

1. **God desires to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The Pharisees have focused on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but forgot the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God’s purpose for ritual and religion isn’t to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but rather to be merciful.

1. **God’s mercy is not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sin**

*v. 12 “It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick.”*

It’s the mercy of God that brings the sinner to the table to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It’s the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doctor who does not want to cure the sick.

1. **God desires for you to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mercy**

**23**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

With all rules and no mercy you’re just as worse off as the person with no rules and all mercy.

“It’s the mercy of God that brings the sinner to the table to be transformed.”

**Questions for Reflection:**

1. Is it hard to imagine that God’s primary goal for religion and rituals and rules is for our benefit? That we would receive mercy?
2. The mercy of God isn’t a license to sin but rather, it’s an expectation that we would be more and more like God. Are there parts of your life that are challenged by this fact?
3. Are you guilty of straining gnats while swallowing camels? Do you commonly focus on God’s rules while forgetting His heart?