

Jesus on target Part 2

Keeping it simple

The Pharisees made things ridiculously complex.

For example, they made sin purely external – an act being right or wrong depending on some external condition being present or absent.

For example, when bestowing Sabbath alms, since the donor was forbidden from doing work of any kind, the beggar must put his hand within the door of the donor. God forbid that the donor stretch his hand beyond his own threshold!!

On one occasion when Jesus entered a synagogue “a man was there who had a withered hand. And they (the Pharisees) watched him closely, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him.”

Jesus asked the Pharisees this simple question, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil?” But they kept silent.

Jesus put his compassion above any other consideration. He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.”

He stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. So the Pharisees straight away plotted against Jesus how they might destroy him. Mark 3.1-6.

Jesus was angry with those Pharisees. He was “grieved by the hardness of their hearts.”

By contrast, are our hearts open to God?

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“God is love.” 1 John 4.8. That's the simple truth.

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