



Lesson 29: An Impatient king

Read Matthew 23:1-12. A phylactery was a very small box or container which the Jews would place Scripture in and then bind those boxes to their arms or foreheads, to keep God's word never far from them. It had become a practice of the Pharisees to make these boxes much larger than necessary, in order for the people to see how much Scripture they carried with them, in an imitation of holiness. The fringe or tassel on the bottom of their cloak had a blue ribbon in it, to remind them of the commandments and to obey them. Thus, the Pharisees were making a show of holiness and obedience, for all the world to see. How do Jesus words in verses 11 and 12 affirm or reject these practices?

Read Matthew 15:1-9. Jesus condemns those who do what in verses 8-9? What part of us can we infer that Jesus DOES want to draw near to Him in these verses?

Read Romans 1:18-25. In verses 21 and 22, we see that Saul was not alone in claiming to know God, in paying God lip service, while they didn't honor Him or give Him praise and thanks. Saul also thought he was wise but, in his actions, showed his foolishness. Re-read verses 18-25. In what ways do we exchange the truth of God for a lie and worship created things instead of the creator? (Hint: anything that you give more importance to, more time to, than God could very easily be something you are worshiping instead of God.)

Read Psalm 119:97-104. What does the Psalmist love here? What does the Psalmist hate? Why would God's words be sweeter than honey to the Psalmist? What makes them so desirable?

Saul acted on his own, to accomplish his purpose, not God's. He knew what he had been commanded to do (wait for Samuel) but he was impatient and he didn't want to wait. Is there a command from God that you have been ignoring?

Do you love His commands, as the Psalmist does, or do you disdain His commands and go your own way?

Spend some time today with God, and consider what you might be placing in higher importance than God and His Word. Ask God to give you the hunger for His Word that the Psalmist has, for His Word to become sweeter than honey to your lips, today.