Bringing it Home

1. Pastor Jeremiah said, “People matter far more than systems. Persons are far more important than rituals.” How might one of your personal rituals or habits be limiting your ability to 1) love God or 2) love people? What “legalistic” mentality might be behind that practice or habit?

2. Look behind the legalism. What sinful attitude might be there (e.g. jealousy, anger, selfishness, control, fear, or doubt)? With this fresh awareness of the state of your heart, what heart-change do you need from God? What is keeping you from giving this need over to him right now?

3. How can you “move forward” with this heart-change? How can you bless someone else’s life because of what God has done in your own heart? How can you show genuine love and concern for a family member, friend, co-worker or small group member?

Is Your Faith a Blessing or a Burden?
October 28, 2012  ♦  Dr. David Jeremiah
Mark 2:23 - 3:6

Sermon Notes

I. Your faith should not be a burden to you but a blessing. - Mark 2:23-28

A. The Disciples’ Action - Mark 2:23
   1. The grain they were eating was the Lord’s.
   2. The Sabbath they were “breaking” was the Lord’s.
      Deuteronomy 23:25

B. The Pharisees’ Accusation - Mark 2:24; Exodus 31:14

C. The Lord’s Answer - Mark 2:25-28
   1. His Illustration - Mark 2:25-26
   2. His Instruction - Mark 2:27-28
      a. The Principle of the Sabbath – Mark 2:27
      b. The Preeminence over the Sabbath – Mark 2:28

II. Your faith should not be a burden to others but a blessing. - Mark 3:1-6

A. Jesus’ Audience - Mark 3:1-2

B. Jesus’ Audacity - Mark 3:3-4

C. Jesus’ Anger - Mark 3:5a

D. Jesus’ Action - Mark 3:5b

E. Jesus’ Adversaries - Mark 3:6
Small Group Questions

Getting Started
1. How have you been positively impacted by a good deed that someone did for you? Who went out of their way to help you out? What did they do for you? What was it about their kindness that you appreciated? What was going on in your life that made what they did particularly well received?

2. Think back to a time when you did something kind for someone else, without any thought of being thanked or repaid—you simply chose to do something nice; maybe it was spontaneous. What prompted this unselfish act of kindness? What motivated you to go out of your way for someone else?

Digging Deeper
1. Make two different lists: 1) Describe positive motivations that encourage people to care for others. 2) Also, describe negative motivations that actually keep people from helping others. What are some unbiblical “rules” that people use to keep them from feeling the need to help others?

2. Think about the good news of the Gospel. How do people take the simplicity of the Gospel and “add their own” ideas to it, thereby creating something that is more complicated (i.e. rules, duties, or legalism) and not the Gospel? What does this do to the message of the Gospel? What does this do to the heart of the person “adding their own ideas” to the Gospel?

3. Read the following scriptures. What are some common ingredients found in true, God-centered religion? What should be our motive for serving others? What does God require of our service? What do these scriptures say about the heart?

   Deuteronomy 10:12, 13
   Micah 6:8
   Matthew 22:34-40
   Romans 13:10
   James 1:27

4. Read Matthew 7:1-5. From this week’s sermon, how did the Pharisees live in a false type of religion? Because of this, how did the “plank” in their own eyes create a type of blindness to the needs all around them? How can you and I become “blind” in this same way?

5. Read Luke 10:25-37. What is a modern-day “Good Samaritan” scenario that you’ve observed near your home, school, or work? How have some people “passed by” those in need? How have others “shown compassion” to those in need?