



BETTER THINGS

HEBREWS 6:9

BETTER THINGS

- Have you ever felt the guilt of not seeing the forest for the trees?
- We get so caught up in the specific details of something that we lose sight of what the overall objective is. (Luke 10:38-42)
- Certainly, doing things properly is not wrong.
- But, have we gotten so caught up in trying to be right in Christianity that we failed to actually be Christians.
- I'm afraid that at times we can be guilty of this.

BETTER THINGS

- **Consider Hebrews 6 and Matthew 23:23-24**
 - **Seems like the Christian version of the Jewish problem that Jesus addressed.**
 - **Just like the Jewish leaders, who majored in the minors, Christians can become so near-sighted about elementary doctrines that we fail to mature spiritually.**
 - **There were bigger things than just tithing correctly and there is more to being a Christian than just understanding certain fundamentals.**

BETTER THINGS

- **Jesus calls attention to mercy, justice and faithfulness as higher priorities in Matt. 23.**
- **The Hebrew writer offers both praise and exhortations in regards to Christians working, loving and serving.**
 - **Praise for those who have embraced the more mature elements of Christianity.**
 - **Encouragement for others to show the same earnestness in these areas.**

BETTER THINGS

- Are we grasping the weightier matters or the better things?
- Today, let's remind ourselves of the bigger picture that God has for kingdom people.
- Obviously, kingdom growth is going to require kingdom workers that place a premium on justice, mercy, faithfulness, love, and service.
- Let's explore what this looks like and perhaps consider some areas where we can grow.

BETTER THINGS

- *Do we practice....*
- Faithfulness = FAITH-FULL-NESS. It's not just about rule keeping it is about FULL faith in God. Not only do I want to do what he says but I believe in Him and what He says. That's why there are two parts to Hebrews 11:6.
- So when God says turn the other cheek or forgive over and over.... or when he wants us to call attention to some other person's sins with gentleness/meekness, do we?

BETTER THINGS

- *Do we practice....*
- **Justice-** The word is krisis in the Greek and means decision making whether for or against.
 - The point that Jesus is making is to judge things properly without partiality, impropriety, or insincerity.
 - Don't let biases or bribes determine a matter.
 - Do we ever bemoan the lack of justice for God when it involves our personal wants & agendas.

BETTER THINGS

- *Do we practice....*
- **Mercy-** To not give people what they deserve.
 - How many of us give people exactly what they deserve when they offend us.
 - If it is some misunderstanding, we jump to conclusions before having all the facts.
 - If it is some type of mistreatment, we generally let people have it.
 - If it is some type of misbehavior, we attack.

BETTER THINGS

- We have been called to love and serve.
- Kingdom workers don't overemphasize one sin to the exclusion of others.
- Kingdom workers are more interested in how to reconcile people to God than run them off.
- Kingdom workers are aware of their imperfections and empathize with other sinners rather than lessening the impact of their own.