

I want to cover a couple groups of passages together this morning for our message so if you'll turn in your Bibles to Luke 5 and 6 please we'll look at

### **Luke 5:33-35; Luke 6:1-11**

Jesus is fielding a lot of questions from His audience and they're not lobbing softballs either; they're throwing the heat.

He is fielding questions like

*- 'why don't you fast as much as John the Baptist's disciples and the Pharisees do?'*

*- 'what are your followers doing working on the Sabbath?'*

*- 'where do you get off healing on the Sabbath?'*

This is similar to the inquisition He endured in our text a couple weeks ago when they badgered Jesus when He healed the paralyzed man

*- 'how can You say 'your sins are forgiven?' Only God can do that!'*

Which, by the way, is a true statement: God alone has the power and authority to forgive sins. But they were missing the point: Jesus is God!

They had become so engrossed in WHAT was done and HOW it was done and the WAY in which it was done that they missed out on WHO it was that had done it! They *'couldn't see the forest for the trees.'*

More than likely they focused primarily on the DO and not the WHO.

Oh dear God, please save us from ourselves!

It is possible to do the DO and not even know the WHO!

### **Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV**

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

Listen to how The Message phrases this passage

*"Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance— isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious*

*obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'*

Scary, huh? This morning I want us to focus on the WHO: our Lord Jesus Christ! The title of this morning's message is:

## **Maintaining a proper focus: setting our heart and soul to seek the Lord**

It's easy to get caught up with other things and lose our focus

### **It's easy to become captivated by power**

#### **Luke 10:17-20**

The 70 returned rejoicing about casting out demons; Jesus realigns their thinking by instructing them to rejoice in their salvation.

### **It's easy to become consumed by performance**

#### **Luke 10:38-42**

Martha is entangled with the act of serving; Jesus reminds her to resist being sidetracked.

### **It's easy to become caught up in projects**

#### **Revelation 2:1-5**

The church at Ephesus; they seemed to have got the do but missed the Who! Jesus informed them to remember, repent and redo... or else He will remove His presence.

### **Conclusion: 1 Chronicles 22:19**

David desired to build a dwelling place for God but God said 'no, not you, but your son.' So David is giving instruction to the leaders of Israel. 'God is with you. He is your rest. He is your victory...'

***'Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God.'***

**Set:** to give, bestow, grant, permit, ascribe, employ, devote, consecrate, or dedicate.

**Heart:** inner man, mind, will, heart, soul, understanding.

**Soul:** self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion, that which breathes.

**Seek:** to resort to, seek with care, enquire, require, to tread a place

**Psalm 27:8**

*'When You said, "Seek My face,"*

*My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

Our focus should never rest on **power, performance, or project** but on the **person** of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sometimes in order to set our hearts and minds we need a re-set.