

How Does That Camel Taste?

I. Introduction:

A. So often zeal rooted in ignorance overtakes Scriptural reasoning (**Romans 10:1-3**).

1. More often than not, people THINK they are serving God when they are really doing their own will (**Matthew 7:21-23** and **John 16:1-3**).
2. We have to be sure our zeal is properly sourced (**Galatians 4:17-18**).

B. It is amazing how some will act sinfully and then later turn to the Scriptures like they are concerned about the will of God (i.e. **Matthew 26:1-5; 14-16; 27:1-10**).

1. Self-righteousness isn't true faithfulness (**Proverbs 16:2; 20:6**).
2. Anyone can convince themselves they are okay when they are not (**Proverbs 30:20**).

II. Body: Are You A Nit Picking Camel Eater (**Matthew 23:23-24**)?

A. While **James 2:10-12** is never overridden, some instructions take precedent and thus qualify others. Consider the following...

1. What is lawful, but not required, must be set aside for a brother or sister's conscience (**I Corinthians 10:23-33**) within certain boundaries (**Romans 14:1-3** and **I Timothy 4:1-5**).
2. The needs and interests of others need to come before my own (**Romans 12:10, Galatians 5:13, and Philippians 2:3-5**; cf. **I John 3:14-18** and **I John 4:16-21**), but not before God's (**Galatians 1:6-10**).
3. Be ready to answer (**I Peter 3:15**), but the greater sometimes is knowing when NOT to answer (**II Timothy 2:23**).
4. When someone is concerned about NOT being wrong so much that they take on a state of a troubled conscience, that DOES NOT mean he or she is sinning (AT THAT POINT - unless it continues). The truth is often quite the contrary... **Romans 14:23** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**.

B. Think on this... (**Matthew 9:9-13** and **Matthew 12:1-8**).

1. They ate that camel not understanding the order of man and the Sabbath to begin with (**Mark 2:27**; cf. **Exodus 23:12**).
2. Consider the purpose of the instruction at times lest you exalt the statement above the greater intentions of God (**Luke 19:1-10**).

C. Not leaving the other undone - balance (**I Timothy 5:21**).

1. WHOLE obedience (**Jeremiah 7:23, Matthew 28:20, and II John 1:9**).
2. What if the actions and purpose don't align (**Revelation 2:1-7**)?
3. You cannot defend (**Jude 1:3-4**), but never take Scriptural steps to create peace (**Matthew 5:9** and **Romans 14:19**)! cf. **Titus 3:9-11**

III. Conclusion: We have the information on how to balance and handle ourselves correctly, now USE it (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2** and **II Timothy 3:14-18**).