

Hijacked Bible Verses:

Matthew 9:13

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

“What does God have to say to weak people who aren’t even very good at repentance? “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” That is, “I desire to show mercy to you, I do not desire to demand a sacrifice of atonement from you.” God does not desire to extract from us sacrifices for our sins and promises that we’ll do better next time and all the other things we might do to make up for our weakness. God sweeps it all away with this one sweeping statement: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” That is his deepest heart toward us all.”

<https://renewalministries.com/message/mercy-not-sacrifice/>

““God desires mercy, not sacrifice. This is a quote from Hosea 6:6, and it's not just telling us that God wants us to love people more than he wants us to observe ritual holiness. It's telling us that his deepest desire, the thing that is most important to him in all the world, is that people come to him, experience his love, and find themselves washed clean. It's not only a message to us, it is a message for us. God is a God of mercy. He doesn't want perfection, he wants his children to experience his forgiveness and to draw near.”

<https://onesteadfast.com/Blog/ScriptureStudy/I-Desire-Mercy-Not-Sacrifice-The-Limitless-Love-of-Our-God>

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Principles for Interpretation:

- The Bible is inspired from God (II Timothy 3:16,17)
- The Bible is true (John 17:17)
- The Bible has no contradictions (Hebrews 6:18)
- The Bible can be understood (Ephesians 3:1-4)
- We must understand the context (Job 2:9)

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What this verse can't mean:

- It can't mean that God doesn't want sacrifice (Leviticus 1,3,4,7, etc.)

What this verse means:

- Knowledge of God demands obedience (Titus 1:16, I John 2:3)
- God wants our heart and our actions (Matthew 22:35-40, John 14:23, John 4:23,24, Isaiah 1:11-17, Proverbs 21:3, Micah 6:6-8, I Samuel 15:22, Mark 12:33, Matthew 5:23,24, Psalm 50, Matthew 23:23)

Applications?

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What do these verses really teach?
What are the lessons for us?

-Click the link to listen to this lesson!