

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 8

MATTHEW 9:9-13

CONNECT PARTY

Dessert Party Friday, Friday, March 31st

Join us for a casual evening with the leadership of Element.
Come meet and connect with others. We will provide the desserts.

All are welcome, whether you are new to Element
or have been coming for a while.

RSVP at connect@ourelement.org

JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email
connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"

CATCH UP WITH THIS SERIES

**Watch or listen to every message in our
Authority series by going to
ourelement.org/authority**

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

AUTHORITY

MERCY NOT SACRIFICE

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:9-13

Exodus 30

Luke 10:25-27

Hosea 6:4

Hosea 6:6

Ephesians 5:1

February 26, 2017

www.ourelement.org

AUTHORITY

MERCY NOT SACRIFICE

Sometimes it is easier to make up our own ideas about who God is apart from what the Scriptures reveal to us. We either make God into a God who is all loving and never requires anything from us, or we make Him into a mean overbearing parent who always wants to punish us.

What is the craziest way you have ever heard God explained?
How did you deal with it?

Matthew was a tax collector, a *'telones.'* That meant he would take money from his people (the Israelites) and give it not only to the ruling elites, but also to a foreign superpower that was destroying his country. Matthew is someone that everyone would see as part of the problem, not the solution. His people hate who he is and no one would have given him a chance for redemption, yet Jesus shows up and restores him to his rightful place in God's Kingdom.

Read Matthew 9:9-13.

What is your understanding of the difference between mercy and sacrifice?

Jesus reminds the Jewish leaders about mercy and sacrifice by referring them to the book of Hosea, and teaching them the true way to interpret the scriptures.

Sacrifice – comes from two words, 'HOLY' and 'TO MAKE;' it means TO MAKE HOLY. It is taking something and dedicating it to God's use.

Where have you sacrificed for others in your life?

Where have you sacrificed for Jesus?

The most technical word for sacrifice in the Old Testament means to bring something near to God, so the thing will be changed and transformed into being holy. It is giving something to God to be used for His purposes.

WEEK 8 SERMON NOTES

Mercy – The word for mercy most often used in the OT is the word *'hesed.'* Hesed is used for kindness, solidarity, goodness, and grace. When it is used in reference to God, it refers to God's faithfulness to His covenant with His people despite our continued rejection of Him and our own sin.

How has God shown you mercy in your life?

John Piper points out four things in the Good Samaritan narrative about the dimensions of mercy.

1. Mercy sees.
2. Mercy responds internally with a heart of compassion or pity toward a person in distress.
3. Mercy responds externally with a practical effort to relieve distress.
4. Mercy is given even when the person in distress is, by religion and race, an enemy.

Mercy does not mean you can't hold someone accountable for their actions or discipline a child. *John Piper wrote, "God's will is that sometimes we recompense people with what they deserve, whether punishment or reward (call that justice). And God's will is that sometimes we recompense people with better than what they deserve (call that mercy). In upholding the claims of justice, we bear witness to the truth that God is a God of justice. And in showing mercy we bear witness to the truth that God is a God of mercy."*

When have you been shown what you deserve and when have you been given better than what you deserve?

When Jesus says in Matthew 9:13 *"Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'"* It does not mean that sacrifice is bad, it means that the scriptures are about understanding what truly separates us from God and then how to live the life of God in the world. Through the saving gift of Jesus' death and resurrection, God is saying to His people that *"I desire to show mercy to you, I do not desire to demand a sacrifice of atonement from you."* God deals with us in mercy because of His sacrifice. Jesus paid our debt to make us clean before God. Jesus restored relationship with us. Jesus wants us to live wholeheartedly for God, because God's whole heart toward us is mercy.

How can you begin to show God's mercy to others?