**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. July 30, 2023**

**Jesus Christ, Changes Everything**

Matthew 9:14-17

**Key Truth:** Jesus Christ brought life, hope, forgiveness, and healing to those who felt unworthy of God’s presence.

**John The Baptist Has Questions:**

1. John wants to know why Jesus disciples aren’t

 conforming to the traditions of the religious leaders.

**Spiritual Disciplines Vs Traditions**:

1. Spiritual disciplines are good tools to help with our

 spiritual formation, but they aren’t necessary for

 salvation.

2. Religious traditions are bad:

A. When they overrule the word of God.

 B. When they hinder people from coming to Jesus.

 C. When they demand conformity.

**What Do We Learn:**

1. Jesus didn’t come to patch up our old life, He came to

 give us new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17

2. For us to be filled with new wine, we must die to

 ourselves. Galatians 2:20-21

3. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to live lives of

 thanksgiving, abundant joy, and grace. Ephesians 5:18-21,

 Philippians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

4. Never get so stuck in your ways that you become a

 hindrance to the gospel. ACTS 10:9-16, 24-29

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank Jesus that He has called you even when you were lost. Ask Him to help you engage people that might be considered “off-limits” with the message of grace.

**Food For Thought:**

Read Mark 2:18-28: What, in your own words, is the main point Jesus was making through His actions and teaching in these verses?

How do these verses show us the difference between the way of religion and the way of Jesus?

What are some subtle ways you might be basing your relationship with God on your good works? How do you know if you’re doing so?

Who is one person in your life in need of God’s mercy? How can you further your relationship with him or her this week?

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What are some practical ways you can associate with the kind of “sinners” that Jesus came to save?

What is one area of your life you need to bring into submission to the authority of Christ?