

Giant Gnats Gnaw Gaping Gaps in Gladness !

Matthew 23:23-28



God's Intention Vs. Man's Priorities

- Christianity is to be satisfying & fulfilling
 - **Matthew 11:28-30**, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”
- Humans often misplaced priorities
 - Emphasize the outward over the inward
 - Major In Minors
 - Gnaw at Gaps in Gladness
(Like Giant Gnats)

Giant Gnawing Gnats

- Christianity driven by the weight of the law without love for the individual
 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, (2-3) “...have not love, I am nothing”
- Lesser matters elevated to weightier matters of law
 - Matthew 23:1-7, Binding heavy burdens
 - Matthew 23:13-15, Shutting the kingdom
 - Matthew 23: 23:23-28, Straining at gnats

Giant Gnawing Gnats

- Condemn rather than to saving
 - **John 3:17**, “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
- Tear down rather than build up
 - **Romans 14:3**, “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him”

Giant Gnawing Gnats

- Discredit rather than seek resolution
 - Romans 12:16-17, “Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”
- Reject as first resort ???
 - Matthew 18:15-17, “if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone ...if he will not hear *thee*, then take with thee one or two more, ...if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church...if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen”
 - Matthew 18:22, “seventy times seven”

Giant Gnawing Gnats

- Action w/o conviction
 - Luke 10:33-34, Samaritan, “had compassion on him...bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”
- Form over substance
 - Mark 12:33-34, “I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”

Conclusion of the Matter

• Christianity is about...

- ...satisfaction & fulfillment.
- ...love & law both being important.
- ...saving, not condemning.
- ...building up, not tearing down.
- ...resolving, not discrediting.
- ...making rejection the last choice.
- ...conviction with action.
- ...substance with form.



... Nipping Giant Gnats in the Bud !

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