

- I. Religion without relationship keeps us hungry
 - A. The real needs of the people – hunger
 - B. The hypocrisy of the religious
 1. They were guilty of legalistic fault finding
 2. They did religious observance without heart change

“He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘ These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’ (Isaiah 29:13)

- C. The authority of Jesus
 1. Human needs take priority over human rules

“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest, you must rest.” (Exodus 34:21)

2. The Sabbath was meant to be a blessing not a burden
3. Jesus has authority over the Sabbath

- II. Religion without relationship keeps us handicapped

- A. The real needs of people – crippled

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed, and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew (9:36)

- B. The hypocrisy of the religious
 1. They had no mercy or compassion

“For I desire mercy not sacrifice.” (Hosea 6:6)

2. They had no joy or power

“Having a form of godliness but denying its power.” (2 Timothy 3:5)

- C. The authority of Jesus
 1. Ministry to people is priority over human tradition
 2. Compassion for people is priority over religious ritual
 3. Jesus confronted the religious hypocrisy

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.” (Matthew 23:25)

4. Jesus brought the crippled man complete healing

5. The religious leaders went away angry

“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil.” (John 7:7)