

STOP BEING RELIGIOUS, BECOME "THE FIXER"

Isaiah 58.1-12

*"...you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." v.12b*

The people of Judah had adopted special times of fasting to recognize their spiritual and physical condition of exile. But over time, these days of fasting ceased being times when people were focused on God and many just went through the motions. God, through the prophet Isaiah, has called them out on it and reminded them what a true fast looks like that God desires.

- **Performing religious acts to influence God:**

— no thanks, says God. vv.1-5

- **God redefines fasting:**

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?" vv.6-7

- There's more to following God than just **PERSONAL HOLINESS.**

Jesus reminds us what is most important:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22.36-40

1. Love **GOD**
2. Love **OTHER PEOPLE**

- But wait, there's more: the blessings and benefits of ministering to your fellow humanity. vv. 8-12

So what to do now? How to become a "FIXER."

1. Don't **IGNORE** these situations but become **EDUCATED** about them.
2. Get **INVOLVED** where you can.
3. Support **FINANCIALLY** organizations that minister on a larger scale.
4. Support people **IN LEADERSHIP** that will address issues of injustice.

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?