Introduction:
A. Pharisees were strict to their outward religious observances – especially tithing and sacrifices.
   1. This is as it should of have been.
   2. But, they should have been as strict in matters of the heart and character.
B. Parallel passages helps us understand the “weightier matters of the law.”
   3. Micah 6:6-8 – Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.”
   4. Love of God and walking humbly with God included in “faith.”
C. It possible for Christians to fall into the same pattern of the Pharisees.
   1. Strictly adhere to the N. T. pattern for the church – Name, worship, work and organization.
   2. But, not so strict in matters of the heart: justice and mercy to others and faith and love to God.
D. Let’s look closely to the 3 weightier matters if Matthew’s account:

I. Justice
A. Justice is the fair and right judgment and treatment of others.
   1. Jesus requires righteous judgment (John 7:24; cf. NIV)
      a. Things are not always as they appear to be (Ill. Man and wheelbarrow)
      b. Injustices often committed because of hasty judgment – take time to get the facts.
   2. Justice forbids discrimination based on racial, ethnic or social/economic factors
      a. James makes it clear that such unfair treatment in the church is forbidden (Jas. 2:1-9)
      b. One should be judged on basis of what he does, not on who he is or where from (1 Pet. 1:17)
B. Justice is lovingly and gently holding one accountable for sins (Gal. 6:1)
   1. It is an injustice to allow one to continue in sin without rebuke (Jas. 5:19-20)
   2. It is also an injustice to wrongly charge one with sin (cf. Prov. 17:15)

II. Mercy
A. Mercy is has a wide range of meaning.
   1. It is compassion toward those less fortunate that ourselves - sick, afflicted and poor.
   2. It is compassion to one even though he does not deserve it.
   3. It is forgiving the penitent and
B. Mercy is in our own best interest.
   1.