

Week Three

God's Kingdom:

Our King's Provisions

Participants Guide



CIRCLE UP

Introductions

Interactions

- Read Matthew 5:17-20

Sunday's message compared and contrasted God's righteousness with our attempts to find righteousness. In His Sermon On The Mount, Jesus calls us to a higher, wider and deeper righteousness that we might envision on our own.

1. How was your view of "righteousness" challenged, in Sunday's message?
2. How did Jesus speak to you through Sunday's message?

DISCOVER Kingdom Principles

Every kingdom has a king. We are recognizing King Jesus' rule and authority in the kingdom He established. Matthew 5:17-48 begins revealing the righteousness of King Jesus and extending it to us.

3. How important is it for a king to be righteous? Why does it matter?

Look back at verses 17-18. The "Law, the Prophets and the Writings" are the three main categories of the Old Testament. Some portions of it are skipped-over or neglected or ignored, today. The effect of that could be to limit our view of holiness and righteousness.

4. Why is it easy to conclude that Jesus came to "abolish" the Old Testament?
5. How would you describe the difference between "abolishing" and "fulfilling?" Why does it matter?

- Read Matthew 5:19-20 aloud, together.

6. What do you know about the righteousness of the Pharisees?

Jesus had more than a few encounters and clashes with the Pharisees and Teachers of the law. One example is found in Matthew 12, which can be explored later. Another, which we will look at here, is found in Matthew 23.

- Read Matthew 23:1-4 aloud, together.

The problem with the pharisees and teachers of the law was their hypocrisy. That is, they did not practice what they preached. Even so, notice that Jesus did not say to NOT do what they said. He said to DO what they say. But (and this is big), Jesus said "DON'T do what they DO." Then He gives several examples of what they do, which should NOT be imitated.

- Read Matthew 23:23-26 aloud, together.

7. One might conclude Jesus is saying their good deeds are worthless. How accurate is that?

8. How is the righteousness of the Pharisees lacking (Matt. 5:20)?

DISCUSS Kingdom Priorities

As Jesus calls forth kingdom righteousness, His message becomes counter-culture. "You have heard it said" represents cultural values and assumptions of that day.

In Matthew 5:21-42, Jesus gives five examples of "kingdom righteousness"

9. Which of the Five Examples challenges or frustrates you, the most?
10. Some conclude that Jesus is saying anger is the same as murder and lust is the same as adultery. Is that accurate?

- Read Matthew 5:43-48 aloud, together

11. What kind of perfection is Jesus talking about? How is God perfect, in this instance?

DO Kingdom Practices

It starts at our core – heart and soul – as we are filled to overflowing with God's love, poured out in Jesus. King Jesus provides it. As we receive and experience God's love, we are able to give it to others.

12. As a group, come up with 3 ways we can "live it out" this week?

13. How Jesus is speaking to me. . .

For NEXT TIME:

- Read/Listen to Matthew 6:1-24
- Attend/Watch Sunday Gathering, in person or online.
- Pray/Consider: "What is Jesus saying to me about His kingdom?"