



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: God's Only Plan

TEXT: Matthew 5:17-20

DATE: January 24, 2021

SPEAKER: Pastor Dave Bondeson

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Share about a time when you had very clear expectations of something that turned out very differently in the end.
Think about a vacation, a meal you ordered, etc.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Green star indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- ★ 1. Last week, Matt's sermon emphasized that the way of the world is very different from the way of the Kingdom of God. How does this week's passage (Matthew 5:17-20) continue that thought?
Review what Dave said about what people were expecting from Jesus vs. what they were getting.
2. How does Jesus fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
 - a. When Jesus refers to the Law and the Prophets, what is he referring to?
Hint: See Luke 24:27 - The whole Old Testament
 - b. Where are other places in Matthew that connect Jesus's actions with what the Old Testament says about what the Messiah will do or be?
Hint: Look for the prophecies Jesus says are being fulfilled. What are some of the ways Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets?
For ideas see: Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, Jeremiah 31:33-34
Some answers could include: He obeyed the law fully; he is the offering or sacrifice by shedding his blood; he bore the punishment due those who broke the Law; he gives us the Holy Spirit to help us live obediently.
 - c. How does understanding this about the Old Testament help us with reading it, understanding it, and applying it?
Understanding the whole Bible as being about Jesus as God's plan for salvation can help us make sense of the narratives of the Old Testament. They aren't simply unconnected stories, but speak of God's character as well as point to Jesus. If it's helpful, suggest a few popular Old Testament narratives and discuss where Jesus is in the story or how he is pointed toward or symbolized.
3. From the reading in Matthew, think of times when Jesus is critical of the Pharisees for thinking too highly of themselves or the Law. How does that support what Jesus is saying in Matthew 5:17-20?
 - a. What is self-righteousness?
 - b. What does a disciple's life of righteousness look like?
Some answers might be: the character qualities in the Beatitudes; the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. Spend some time as a group and create an outline of the rest of the sermon on the Mount. If your Bible has headings for sections, use those as main topics, and then if multiple topics are included under a main topic, include them in the outline. Then discuss how these topics relate to the Beatitudes and being salt and light. Doing this together would be a great way to anticipate upcoming sermons. If you record your outline, you could revisit it in the coming weeks as you hear the sermons.
 - c. In reference to verse 20, what about the scribes' and Pharisees' lives and teaching needed to be exceeded? Look at Luke 18:9-14 and discuss the difference shown there between the Pharisee and the tax collector. How does this help us see what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus?
4. Have you accepted Jesus as God's first, only and best answer for you and your brokenness? How does that reality play out in your everyday life? What other 'answers' do you tend to turn to deal with your brokenness instead of Jesus?
Other 'answers' may be: identity, habits, successes, people, ...

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Remember: the Joyful Journey resource page on our website has many Faithfully Following pieces.
Have everyone in your group pull out their phones, navigate to the "Joyful Journey" page. Use these ideas or others as a way to take the Sunday sermon with you throughout the week // Be doers of the Word.