



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: The Heart of the Matter, part 1

TEXT: Matthew 5:21-30

DATE: January 31, 2021

SPEAKER: Pastor Steve Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- Share a story about a time you laughed when you really shouldn't have! What happened next?
- How did your parents settle disputes between you and your siblings?

Consider texting out the opener question beforehand to your group, along with the details of the meeting, as a reminder of your meeting and to get them thinking about their answers.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

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

- When Jesus says "But I say to you," what is he asserting about himself?

He is the authority. He gave Moses the Law through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; He, therefore, can rightly interpret it.

- ★ What standard of right and wrong is Jesus presenting in Matthew 5: 21-30? How does Jesus clarify what sin is? How does this mess with our thinking about ourselves when we say things like "Well, I would never do that!?" How does comparison to others play into your own view of yourself as it relates to sin?

- According to Jesus, what is the true source of anger and lust? (See Matthew 12:34-35 and Matthew 15:18-20.)

- How serious does Jesus take sin? What is Jesus' point in using the language he chose in Matthew 5:29-30?

He emphasizes, using hyperbole, the drastic effects of sin.

- Talk about the "pervasive power of sin" and its effects. Read James 1:12-15. What does sin affect and how have you seen this play out in your life?

If the topic of sin's individual effects seems too personal, consider breaking the group up into pairs or triads so that everyone can share more openly. Encourage group members to pray and confess these sins as they share them.

- How does sin pervert your perspectives on things?

Think about a situation in which you did not act lovingly toward a family member or friend. What were the roots of those actions or thoughts? ★

- Do you ever find yourself flaring into a raging temper when a person has done something to you? Do you sometimes feel anger against a person who really has done nothing to you at all? Does someone come to mind? What can you do to begin to right your heart in that?

If this is a conversational path you choose to go down, help members get really concrete in their plans to get right with someone they aren't right with. Take note and follow up with those who commit to pursuing peace with someone.

- How do the following verses help us experience victory over our sin, our brokenness, our specific issue of ...? (Romans 8:13-14; I Corinthians 9:27; Colossians 3:5-12; Philippians 2:12-13) What hope can you derive from Ezekiel 36:26-27?

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Individually or as a group, pray about where the Spirit is convicting or confirming in your life and in your heart. What does walking in obedience to the Spirit's prompting look like for you this week?

- 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.