



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: The Heart of the Matter, part 2

DATE: February 7, 2021

TEXT: Matthew 5:31-48

SPEAKER: Pastor Dave Bondeson

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- What was an experience when someone did something over-the-top nice for you?
- What are you learning from reading Mark? How does it compare to Matthew?

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

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

- Last week, Pastor Steve talked about our propensity not to take our sin seriously enough. This week, Pastor Dave talked about our pushing the boundaries on how we practice righteousness. How do these two ideas work together?
- What is uncommon about God's grace? What does God's uncommon grace mean (Matthew 5:45)? How does it impact our lives?
- How does the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-25 illustrate God's "uncommon grace" and our call to "uncommon grace?" According to Matthew 5:44-45, why should we live with "uncommon grace" or radical righteousness?
- Discuss these common statements (or statements like them): "You have to look out for #1" and "We need to do it my way." How do these perspectives make Jesus' teaching about Kingdom living radical?
Jesus tells his followers that the natural human bent toward selfishness is not how those who live in God's Kingdom are to be. His followers are to be radical in the righteous ways they are faithful in relationships, truthful in their heart actions, sacrificial and loving in their conduct.
- How do the themes of verses 21-47 illustrate what Jesus meant in v.19-20 and v. 48?
Answer: He is getting to the heart of who we are, not what we do.
- The Pharisees and the teachers of the law fell into the trap of creating a legalistic list of outward behavior. How can we avoid doing the same with the actions presented in v. 21-47, and other teachings in Scripture?
- How did Jesus live out radical faithfulness, truthfulness, sacrifice and love? 
He demonstrates radical faithfulness, truthfulness, sacrifice and love throughout the gospels, culminating in his ultimate sacrificial love on the cross. Encourage your group to think of specific miracles or teachings where he embodies these traits.
- Since all of us experience something of anger, lust, lying, revenge, selfishness, and hate (Matthew 5:21-47), what is Jesus saying to us here? Which illustration gets to you the most?
- Is there something about your life (an attitude, perspective or practice) which cannot be explained in ordinary terms and can only be explained in terms of your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?
- How can we live out having "uncommon grace" or "radical righteousness" this week? Is this only possible for Christians? Where do we get the strength, resolve and power to live like this? 

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Individually or as a group, review the last question from above - how can we live out having 'uncommon grace' and 'radical righteousness' this week? Pray for the power of the Spirit to equip you to do it.
- 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.