

A Perfect Union

Perfect Justice - Week 6

CONNECT:

Who has God put in your path that you could invite to Trunk or Treat?

PREPARE

- How has your understanding of the Sermon on the Mount changed or deepened since the beginning of the series?
- Read Jeremiah 31:33-34.
- What is the difference between teaching and preaching and how would you describe the Sermon on the Mount?
- The six statements Jesus makes with the words, “you have heard it said...but I say to you” are called the antitheses. Why is this sermon so important for Christians?

STUDY AND DISCUSS:

- Read Matthew 5:38-42.
- How is this passage not meant to be an extreme form of punishment but rather a way of protecting people by limiting the personal retribution?
- Jesus goes into 4 scenarios or illustrations:
 1. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other. Why is this so insulting? What is significant about the right cheek? Why is it more demeaning?
 2. The cloak and tunic - How is Jesus moving from a personal retaliation to a civil court situation with the same idea?
 3. The extra mile scenario is now using a government example. How is Jesus telling you not to appeal to your rights under the law but to be willing to serve - even under an oppressive regime?

Community Group Discussion Questions

4. The final scenario has to do with provision and giving. Not only should we give expecting not to have a return, but give to anyone who asks.
- Is Jesus just upping all the laws and giving us new ways to think and live? How could this view lead to legalism?
 - How are these actually an invitation to live out salvation and the resulting freedom that Jesus gives us in his gospel work?
 - Read Matthew 5:43-47. This is radical, but how does this antithesis tie the others together?
 - How does common grace fit into these antitheses?
 - Read Romans 5:8-10. How is Jesus the ultimate sufferer of injustice on our behalf?
 - How does Jesus' kingdom display perfect justice in mercy, faith and love?

RESPONSE:

- As Christians, we are freedom seeking people. How do you define freedom (not what you can get from the world)?
- How do some of the most oppressed people often act like the most free ones?
- Discuss the following quote by Jim Elliott: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

PRAY:

Lord, help us to understand what you did to give us true justice. Please give us mercy and faith and love to live out that justice for others.