

Group

Discussion Guide



Title: The Law: Moving Forward Into the Heart of Man

Text: Matthew 5:17-20

CONTEXT |

In Matthew 5 we have the privilege hear the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher to ever preach, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After see Jesus ministering to the crowds by “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people” at the end of Matthew chapter 4. So, Jesus seeing the crowds went up to the mountain with His disciples to teach them of them what it means to be apart of the true kingdom of God. He starts by explaining to them the true character of the redeemed life in the “Beatitudes” in verse 1-12. Now after explaining to the disciples the character of faith one must have as a child of God, He takes the next step to explain to them the responsibility we have as the children of God. We are to be “Salt and Light” to this world that has been corrupted by sin and is lost and dying without hope. Which brings us to Jesus last point, The Law and its role, before launching us into the practical ways of moving the Law from tablets of stone to the heart of man.

MAIN IDEA |

God’s requirements for entrance into the Kingdom exceed our ability, but Jesus makes a way.

MEMORY VERSE |

“**20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:20 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- As believers who claim to follow Jesus, are our lives characterized by righteousness that comes from the heart, or are we justifying ourselves and lowering God’s standard to simple law keeping?
- What are some practical ways to keep oneself from becoming just a law keeper?
- Read Matthew 22:35-40. Why did Jesus reduce the Law down to just two commandments?
- Prayer Challenge: Asking God this question. Am I loving the Lord my God with all my heart and soul and strength? If not, confess and repent of your tendencies to exalt self above Christ.

EXPLANATION |

As we look at the Sermon on the Mount, I believe it is key for us to understand that Jesus is teaching in a way that each truth is building upon the next truth. These are not just random thoughts that our Lord is having while teaching His disciples but instead, thoughts that will bring His listeners “down the mountain” with a clear path and vision on what it looks like to live in the kingdom of God and proclaim His message to the world.

By teaching this way, Jesus has giving His disciples the confidence they need to participate in the Mission of God by proclaim the gospel to a generation full of themselves; a generation that seeks self-righteousness over complete submission to the One who is righteous.

God’s Message. Our Mission.