

Week 5

May 11, 2008

Mt 5:17-20

Increase – Not Decrease

The Greatest Sermon Ever

Intro

Mt. 5:3-12 – The Beatitudes
Blessed into the Kingdom

Mt. 5:13-16 – Salt & Light
Our Kingdom Purpose - Sent

Mt. 5:17-6:18
Values of the Kingdom

Read Mt 5:17-20

Jesus was not antinomian.
“**antinomian**” – one who
rejects moral law

Dallas Willard suggests one
incorrect response to the Law is
to use it for sin management.
“**Sin managers**” use the Law to
appear righteous. The result is
self-righteousness –
righteousness we create on our
own – that is surface level
rather than having our core
being in right relationship with
God through the grace of Jesus.

Read Ps. 23:4, Pr. 13:24

Rod = Law = Guide

Excitement
Freedom
Joy
Guidance, not punishment
Grace

Pray Together!

Illustration – The rules of Quidditch have no meaning to Harry Potter before he arrives at Hogwarts but once he becomes a student there and a member of a Quidditch team knowledge of the game becomes extremely important to him.

When have you experienced a change of interest or a new understanding of rules or the way things are done because of a move from being on the outside to the inside?

What do you think of when scripture refers to the Law?

What are some of your emotional responses to the Law?

In what ways does it make you feel guilty, angry, defensive, good, better than others, safe, free, joyful, confused, etc.?

Has your response to the Law been like eating your vegetables so you can get dessert?

Why might Christians think they don't need the Law?

Why might Christians be perceived as self-righteous?

How might we break down the negative consequences of the world viewing us as self-righteous?

In what ways are you a sin manager? What are you self-righteous about?

Where do you tend to be judgmental?

Suggestion: Commit to daily examination on this issue through the first week of July.

1. Pray for freedom from self-righteousness.
2. Ask yourself each evening where you've been judgmental instead of loving.
3. Ask for forgiveness and seek a changed attitude.

How does this image of the Law change your reaction to it?

Does this image change your motivation toward adopting kingdom values?

Why or why not?

Recall the excitement in the eyes of Harry Potter in the video clip shown on Sunday. We will spend the next few weeks exploring the values of the kingdom taught by Jesus. Through the sermon this week John has called us to approach these values with excitement about the fact that living these values means living in the kingdom NOW, realizing the freedom and joy being offered to us.

Spend a few minutes creating a means for you to hold onto this positive attitude toward kingdom values from this point forward.

Suggestions: Draw a picture of an image that reminds you

Write a prayer that you can repeat daily

Make a poster of the key concept or words you want to remember

Make a chart of responses to the Law – list (-) & (+) responses