
IT DOESN'T COME NATURALLY



WORSHIP | BELONG | SERVE | MULTIPLY

Matthew 5:20, ESV – *20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of September 6, 2020
Matthew 5-7

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend, we were reminded that internal heart change is more important than external rule keeping. In what ways have you been a "rule follower" and not a "heart-changed follower"?
- 2 Jesus teaches that we should be involved in practices that feed our soul and not be involved in religious activities that we do for show. What are some practices that Jesus is referring to? How do you engage in these practices on a regular basis?
- 3 We also read that we are to seek God's kingdom first and not the power and wealth of the world. What does it mean to "seek the kingdom of God"? How does this look in the everyday life of a believer?
- 4 How can introspection lead to repentance and a changed heart? Why is a changed heart imperative to serving others?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Philippians 3:8-10, ESV** – *8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

5 How does Paul compare and contrast the righteousness of the law with the righteousness of faith in Christ? Why is this so important to Paul?

6 What kind of heart change is needed to truly gain the righteousness of Christ through faith? Why is this so difficult for people?

B **Philippians 2:3-9, ESV** – *3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.*

7 Looking at the passage above, we read that we are to follow Christ's example of humility and putting others before ourselves. How is this mindset counter-cultural?

8 As followers of Christ, what can we do to make sure our motives are in alignment with Christ's desire for us and others?

C **Romans 14:10-13, ESV** – *10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.*

9 How is being “a stumbling block or hindrance” related to being judgmental? What does it mean to not be a stumbling block to others?

TAKING IT HOME

Everything that Jesus taught in this sermon was counter-cultural. The reality is we are still called to be counter-cultural today. In what ways have you been challenged this week to be counter-cultural? What steps do you need to take this week to be the disciple that Christ has called you to be? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will be the disciple He wants you to be, making more disciples.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

James 2:8-13