



Redefined!

Redefined – Week 3: “Murder” Message Discussion Guide April 21, 2024

Icebreaker: How did you handle rules as a young person? How do you handle them now?

Key Scripture: Matthew 5:17-18, 20. Matthew 5:21-22. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. The message began by describing for us the three groups of the Jewish religious sects who were offended by Jesus’ teaching: the Scribes, the Sadducees, and the Pharisees. Their focus was on righteousness earned/gained by following the law laid out in the Torah—613 laws to be exact. They believed that to be favored by God, all these rules had to be kept. Have you ever, or do you now, believe that God only loves you when you keep “rules”? Which rules do you/did you feel you had to follow and where or from whom, did you learn those rules?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-18, 20. Jesus makes it clear he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it and that even those who believe they are keeping the law to perfection, are still not righteous enough. Do you see why they were so angry with Jesus? How do you feel when you read this? Is there hope for you?
3. More than following the law to be made right with God, the question Jesus is answering is: “What is the kind of life that fulfills the deepest intention of God’s commands?” Read Matthew 5:21-22. What is Jesus teaching here? How is doing what Jesus is teaching a way that the law is truly fulfilled? How do you respond to what Jesus is asking of us?
4. To Jesus’ point: If you want to honor God, it’s not just about keeping the letter of the law. It’s about treating others like they matter. The purpose of following Jesus’ commands is to become the kind of human others would want to be SO THAT people would want to know the God I know. How well do you live out the command in Matthew 5:21-22? How do the words of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 encourage and equip you on this journey?

Prayer: God of Mercy, I ask you to search my heart and show me where I have judged, mocked, gossiped, and slandered people. I ask forgiveness and repent of the things you have revealed to me. Redeem these ugly places and fill them with the truth of how I am to treat others, so YOU may be glorified. Thank you for your forgiveness and guide my every thought, word, and actions. Amen.