

DATE: April 14, 2024

TITLE: A Father's Resemblance

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48

SPEAKER: David Mobley

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: Have you ever been told you have great potential regarding something and failed to reach it? How do you respond to lofty goals? Inspired or discouraged?

THINK BACK: Referring back to this week's sermon... What is the BIG IDEA of the Scripture AS IT WAS TAUGHT THIS WEEK? Was there anything that left you with questions?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 5:43-48

1. When we hear Jesus bold and challenging words in the Sermon on the Mount, do you hear them as doable commandments or impossible?
2. Jesus charges the Scribes and Pharisees with "relaxing" God's law and teaching others to do so in Matthew 5:19,20. Do you ever see this tendency in yourself?
3. While we all love others in various ways, how does Jesus command to love your enemies affect you when thinking of actually doing it?
4. Romans 5:8 reveals how God loves us and tells us how we were regarded by the Father before Christ saved us. What does this mean to you?
5. The word in Greek, telos, is translated in the New Testament as perfect (without fault or blemish), complete, and mature. Which meaning is being used in Matthew 5:48? Why?
6. What does Matthew 19:16-26 make clear about achieving righteousness acceptable to God by keeping the commandments?
7. Where did Paul consider his righteousness to originate? Read Philippians 3:7-11.
8. What does Paul say about perfect in his own performance of righteousness in Philippians 3:12-15? Note that Paul uses the telos word and translates it perfect in verse 12 and yet mature in vs 15.
9. Does becoming like Him when we see Him (1 John 3:1,2) inspire and motivate you?

APPLICATION

Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do? What's one thing from this text that you could say to an unbeliever about who God is?

PRAYER

Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text. Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

SHEPHERDING

Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

REMINDERS

Small Group Checklist

- Ask about ideas to serve in some way together. Serve 1x every six weeks or so.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!! One way to reach 'out' together is to welcome people 'in.'
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

Check the bulletin, monthly newsletter and events page on the website for ways that you can get plugged in, as well as events here at FCC. Here are a couple of those things:

- Retreat with us in May! Anyone 18+ is invited to join us at Woodlake Camp & Retreat Center on May 3-5th! More information and registration can be found online!
- On April 21st, following the second service, there will be an orientation to the GriefShare program. This presentation is not just for those who have lost someone, but for those who know someone grieving a loss, as well as for anyone interested in assisting this ministry. A light lunch will be served. Sign up online so we can plan for food.
- Faith Community Church invites Ladies and girls ages 5+ to join us on Saturday, May 11th from 10:00am-noon for a tea party! This is a great outreach event! Formal invites are available at the Connection Point to hand out to neighbors and friends!