

DATE: March 17, 2024

TITLE: "But I Say to You..."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:31-32

SPEAKER: Patrick Mostek

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?

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 5:31-32

1. Jesus takes the Pharisees to task for misunderstanding the law of God. Do you think it was an honest misunderstanding or do you think they just didn't want to obey?
2. Have you ever felt the temptation to try to read the Bible in a specific way because it would be more advantageous? How do we guard ourselves from falling into the trap of the Pharisees?
3. The Bible is supposed to be the final authority for our faith. What other people have do people have? How does that work out?
4. Like the Pharisees, Christians can often say we follow the Bible with our mouths when our hearts are somewhere else. What can get in the way of the Bible being the compass of our lives? (e.g. their feelings, the culture, their family or friends.)
5. In the sermon illustration about the compass, Pastor Patrick mentioned that the soldier did not even realize that the metal from his rifle was interfering with the operation of the compass. What is your responsibility to other believers that may not realize they have gotten off course? How do you do that?
6. In the sermon, Patrick said, "It's not really a test of your obedience until you don't want to do it." Do you agree with that statement? Where have you struggled with something God says? How have you responded?
7. What does it say about the hearts of the Pharisees that they were preoccupied with the issue of the grounds of divorce, while Jesus was preoccupied with the issue of the institution of marriage?
8. Why does Jesus esteem marriage? Why does the Bible in general place such a special emphasis on marriage?
9. Why does culture in both the First Century and people in the Twenty First Century struggle to value marriage as much as Jesus did?

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:

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
Matthew 22:37-39

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:

- EASTER SERVICES: Good Friday at 6 pm | Easter Sunday at 9am and 10:45 with an egg hunt between services for kids ages 3rd grade and under!
- Members of FCC: Please be sure to update your directory profile. Thank you!
- Not yet a member of FCC? Register online to take our membership class on Sat, April 13th!
- 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!
- SAVE THE DATE: Prayer and Worship Night will be