

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Which Way Is Up? | Matthew 5:17-20 Sermon Discussion Participants Guide

Purpose of Discussion: Learning how the Bible points us to live for the right kingdom.

Sermon Refresher: We are driven ultimately by what we love, and our loves are disordered. But, how do we know where to direct our loves? Jesus tells us that the Bible is the trustworthy guide. The Bible tells us that God's righteousness is the best thing to direct our hearts toward and that Jesus has fulfilled that righteousness for us.

Icebreaker: What, if it were missing, would make Thanksgiving not feel like Thanksgiving?

Transition: We often find a way to make happen whatever it is we love about Thanksgiving. We keep doing what we love over the years if we can, and make it a family tradition. Or, perhaps our holiday is filled with obligations that we don't love. But, even in our obligations, we're choosing our love for whatever we feel obligated to over our own personal desires.

Discussion:

1. In his sermon, Dave mentioned Augustine's idea that we aren't driven as much by what we believe or think as much as we are by what we love. Do you think that's true?
2. What are some examples of how our loves can be disordered (i.e. loving the wrong things, loving good things too much, or not loving the best things enough)?
3. Read Matthew 5:17-20. How can you tell that Jesus had a high view of the Old Testament and Scripture from this passage?

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Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

4. Where else in Jesus' life do you see him demonstrating a high view of the Bible?
5. How does Jesus' view of the Bible compare with your own view?
6. Compare your view of righteousness with Jesus' from this passage.
7. Re-read Matthew 5:20. What was the problem with the Pharisees' "righteousness"?
8. Re-read Matthew 5:17. Why do we need to hear that Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets?
9. How does reading the Bible to see and worship Jesus re-orient us to live for the right kingdom in our actual lives?

Sharing and Prayer:

Option 1: Have an extended time of prayer time to offer thanks to God.

Option 2: Have people share a way they want to grow in their love for God and pray for each other.