

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What does a "Good Person" look like to you? What are some boxes to check off to go to heaven?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read Matthew 5:1 through 8:1.
 - a. Where was Jesus when He taught this section. It's known as "The Sermon on the Mount!".
 - b. What was Jesus' purpose for preaching this message?
 - c. Who was Jesus primarily talking to?
 - d. Did Jesus disregard the Old Testament commandments or fulfill them?
 - e. What does Jesus mean in verse 20?
4. Pastor Ruben said, "There's a very short step between a law and legalism. There's also a short step between authority and superiority."
 - a. Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why or why not?
 - b. Any examples you can think of?
5. Now...Please read Matthew 5:21-26. What are the famous three words that Jesus says?
 - a. Pastor Ruben taught the order of teaching would be: Moses would receive the Torah from Mt. Sinai, and give it to JOSHUA. Joshua would give to the ELDERS. The elders would give it to the PROPHETS. The prophets gave it to the GREAT ASSEMBLY.
 - b. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "But I say?"
 - c. It is believed that Moses "sat down" on Mount Sinai to hear from God. Jesus sits down on the mountain. What is the significance of "sitting down?"
6. Dietrich Boenhoeffer said, "The keeping of law turns out to be an inherently self-refuting aim; rather, the inner self must be changed. Trying merely to keep the law is not wholly unlike trying to make an apple tree bear peaches by tying peaches to its branches."
 - a. How does this quote compare to what the religious leaders were teaching and what Jesus was teaching?
 - b. Compare with Matthew 23:25-26.

7. JESUS IS TEACHING US...Your inside matters to God. Let God clean your inside, then your outside will take care of itself.

Do you need to let God clean the inside of your heart?

8. Gary Smalley said this about anger, "Unresolved anger in your home is more toxic than the radon gas!"

Compare this with the following verses: Eph 4:26-27, 31; Nu 11:33; Prov 14:17; James 1:19; and Prov 15:1.

9. Anger is a normal feeling or emotion.
 - a. At what point does anger become a problem?
 - b. What's the line?
 - c. Ask God's Holy Spirit to clean your heart.
 - d. Ask God to help you with any anger issues!

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- There's a very short step between law and legalism; between authority and superiority.

Jesus is teaching...

- You can know about anger in your **head**.
- You can teach about anger in **front** of you.
- But, it doesn't matter unless it's a change of your **heart**.

Jesus goes to the source

- Internal integrity
- Internal obedience
- Internal surrender
- Internal transformation