

Go. Live.

A Series on the DNA of our Church Family

1 – Gospel Transformation

Matthew 5.20

Wrong Kind of Righteous

- The most religious missed the Kingdom
 - Who were Scribes and Pharisees?
 - What did they teach and do?
- The wrong kind of righteous:
 - Obedience is the essence
 - Appearance is everything

To exceed this kind of wrong-righteousness you don't need more or less of the same

- Less: Jesus doesn't really care about what I do
 - But He does, because He came to fulfill the Law and did so on your behalf – and he's preaching a sermon on what this kind of life looks like
- More: Jesus adds more and harsher rules
 - But He doesn't, because He is aiming for a different target altogether and His weapon is a vision of life

Jesus' Kind of Righteous

- Aims at the heart
 - Doesn't settle for external conformity but conquers it so that we want to do the kinds of things He says are best to do and in the way He says is best to do them
 - He doesn't want us to obey but transform us into the kinds of people who normally obey Him
 - Our action is still necessary – there is still work to do, tasks that flow from the heart
- Comes by faith (Phil. 3.7-10)
 - He fulfills the Law for us – God has done for us what we cannot do
 - He forgives us – God offers to us what we cannot earn
 - He frees us – God transforms us in relationship with Him
 - We consistently trade what we cannot keep for that which we cannot lose and we do so joyfully! (Matt. 13.44)

So what?

- Don't settle – conformity isn't satisfying (do you really want to look just like everyone else?)
- Lean in – the deeper we go, the higher the flame
- Speak up – every single person 6th grade and above should make it their goal to share the Gospel this year

You are salt and light – those watching WILL see and ask, then you can tell them – WALLS

Questions for Discussion:

1. How would you describe the church that you grew up in or grew up around (if you didn't go to church)? What specific memories do you have that makes you describe it that way?
2. In the sermon, we said that one of the ways people try to deal with "exceeding righteousness" is by throwing out the rules altogether (if there are no rules, then it's all okay and we can all be righteous). Reread Matthew 5.17-19, focusing on v.17. What is the biggest reason we can't throw out the rules? And now that Jesus lives inside of us, what do you think He would have us do?
3. In the sermon, we said that the other way people try to deal with "exceeding righteousness" is to add more or harsher rules. They take Jesus to be doing such in 5.21ff. Read through the rest of chapter 5. What kind of examples (not new laws!) does He give that demonstrate this kind of "Kingdom righteousness?" How might any of these play out in your life?
4. In the sermon, we talked about being righteous from the inside out (beginning at the heart-level) and that kind of righteous only coming by faith. Reread Philippians 3.7-11. What was Paul emphasizing there? What kind of faith does it take to make the trades he was talking about? As he talked about trading something to gain Jesus, how is this a picture of the kind of "Kingdom righteousness" that Jesus was painting in Matthew 5? How is that transformational?
5. Out of the three "so what" statements above, which one is most challenging to you? What will you do about that? What's the first step?