SERMON ON THE MOUNT CHALLENGE

Week One: Matthew 5:1-12

- Memory Verse: 8 Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.
- Prayer: Pray for an intentional focus toward being pure in heart so that you will see God in more of your day, and the ability to steer away from the negative things that typically steer you away from God.
- Challenge: Look for a moment that would typically push you toward anger or cynicism and try to be more pure of heart at that moment in order to see God.

Week Two: Matthew 5:13-16

- Memory Verse: 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Prayer: Lord, give me eyes to see places where I can shine a light before others. Put opportunities before me that I can perform good deeds, not for my own glory but for yours.
- Challenge: Look for a way to bless a friend, stranger, or coworker this week and if the opportunity arises, share with them why you did it.

Week Three: Matthew 5:17-20

- Memory Verse: 17
- Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, open my heart to those that I judge because they are different from me and give me the strength and wisdom to show them the same love that You have shown me.
Challenge: Take a few minutes to think about how you judge/perceive others’ walk with Christ in comparison to yours. Are you becoming a Pharisee or do you love those that are different from you? Reach out to one of the people you judge who is different from you and send them love and encouragement.

Week Four: Matthew 5:21-26

- Memory Verse: 23-24
- Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the way you have forgiven me and reconciled me to yourself through your Son. Help me to identify people in my life who I need to seek reconciliation with. Help me to identify areas in my own life where anger is present and needs to be dealt with. Calm me. Guide me. Amen.
- Challenge: Take a few minutes to think about people in your life who you’ve had a falling out with/have completely blown it. How did that situation get resolved? Are there people you’re currently at odds with? Pray for them/the situation and send a text, make a phone call, maybe even write a letter, confessing where you have been wrong, and seeking reconciliation in the matter.

Week Five: Matthew 5:27-30

- Memory Verse: 30
- Prayer: Pray for God to open your eyes to the stumbling blocks in your life that keep trapping you in the same sin trap. Also, ask Him to illuminate people in your life that you can invite in to help you.
- Challenge: “The words of Jesus are not to be taken with a crude literalism. What they mean is that anything which helps to seduce us to sin is to be ruthlessly rooted out of life.” - William Barclay. Are there things in your life that continue to be a stumbling block that traps you again and again into sin? Find a way to get around that stumbling block, and maybe invite someone into your life to help you with this.