

Fully Alive - experiencing the Good Life according to Jesus

study #5

Reflecting on Sunday's Teaching ::

As we think back to Sunday's teaching, what stands out for you?

- *Was there something that hit home, challenged, or encouraged you?*
- *What questions are you left with and what are you doing with them?*

Read the Text :: Matthew 5:17-32

If possible, read the text aloud from a few different translations – and take note of the differences and how they help you hear Jesus afresh.

Digging In ::

- The Pharisees play a large part in this text. Clarify together what Jesus means in referring to “the righteousness of the Pharisees, and how aspects of this have shown up in our own lives.
 - Where have we or are we tempted to settle for “*the righteousness of the Pharisees*”?
- In his teaching on Sunday, Scott stated, “The more I stand *with my heart open to the world and to Jesus*, the more I’m becoming convinced that what Jesus is on about here is truly **good news** for a broken, hurting and unjust world...”
 - What was he getting at – how is Jesus’ teaching about murder, adultery and casual divorce good news for the world? How is it good or needed news for you?
- Though it’s easy to say that Jesus teaches here about murder and anger, adultery and lust, and casual divorce – these are not just abstract ideas. They impact the lives of real people. They impact our lives. If you are willing, share how any of these have touched your life?
 - Is Jesus’ teaching here painful or a comfort to you?
 - *If appropriate, stop and pray for one another...*
- In his teaching, Scott invited us to “Imagine a world where righteousness was the reality in every relationship”.
 - Ponder this together. Think about the broken parts of your life and others around you.
 - With this in mind, where do you hunger and thirst for righteousness the most?
 - *Take a moment and pray for God’s Kingdom and righteousness in specific ways?*
- Core to Jesus’ teaching here is the biblical definition of righteousness, as opposed to the Pharisees’ definition. Whereas they defined it as a matter of individual law-keeping, Jesus defined it as a relational matter – relating to others in ways that reflect God’s character and heart.
 - What difference does our vision of righteousness make in our lives? (for better or worse)

PRAY together :: *for “justice [to] roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream.”*