



Week of Mar 26 - a

Scripture: Mt 5:17-20

Main Idea: Jesus taught that people’s righteousness needed to exceed (or surpass) that of the scribes and Pharisees. To his audience that would have seemed a shocking statement since they considered those two groups very righteous. However, Jesus knew the hearts of men and many of the Jewish leaders were not pure in heart, but were hypocrites. So, the message here is the importance of doing the right thing, for the right reason.

Questions

Preschool: If you do something good just to get a reward, do you think that pleases Jesus?

Grade school: Why were the scribes and Pharisees wrong? They were mostly for show. They did everything for the audience, not for God. Make sure you do good things for the right reason. For God, not so your friends and family say that you are ‘such a good person’.

Teen: What happens if you continually do the right thing with pure motives? What is the definition of Integrity? (A: Doing the right thing when no one is watching.) The Scribes and Pharisees were full of pride, and very hypocritical, serving themselves instead of God. Do you sometimes struggle to keep God’s motives, and not your own? If so, what helps you in those times?

Adult: We probably all know someone who professes to be a Christian but lives a very different life. Have you ever wondered why that is? Have they bowed to peer pressure from coworkers, family or friends? Do they not think their behavior is un-Christian? Is the bottom line that they didn't really repent? In your own Christian walk, do you hold onto something that Satan has put into your life to be a stumbling block? How can you let go and walk closer to God?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:
God to help us have right and pure motives in our service to him.

March Memory Verse:

Psalm 9:1 (ESV)

**I will give thanks to the LORD
with my whole heart; I will
recount all of your wonderful
deeds.**



Week of Mar 26 - b

Scripture: Mt 5:21-24

Main Idea: One of the Laws of Moses was, “do not murder.” Jesus goes a step further and teaches, don’t be angry with your brother. Of course, anger can lead to terrible actions and harm, the greatest of which being murder. Jesus taught not only the importance of outward holiness, but also inward holiness, the purity of the heart.

Questions

Preschool: Since Jesus tells us that we aren’t to be angry with our brothers, what is something that you do to help you not get angry?

Grade school: What’s the difference? If you actually murder someone it’s probably because you’re very angry with them. If you are angry inside, it’s just as bad, you just didn’t break man’s law and go to jail. You can’t go to jail for thinking bad thoughts, but God wants you to think good thoughts.

Teen: Why is a pure heart so important? How can we guard our hearts and keep them pure? Why do you think Jesus compares being angry with your brother to murder? It is obviously important to resolve issues, for Jesus to say, leave your offering and talk to your brother first. Why do you think it is so important?

Adult: Our heart. Looking at someone doesn't necessarily allow us to see their heart. Jesus starts this section dealing with internal motivations and going further than what the law taught by addressing family relationships. Did you ever ask someone how their holiday was, only to hear disparaging remarks about their family—or most usually about one or two in the family? Why do you think those breaks in family dynamics are so hard? And repairing them may be even more difficult. In verse 24, Jesus intimates that a broken family relationship impacts your spiritual worship. Why do you think that is? Why is it important to mend those before you worship God?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:
God to help us love others more, and not be angry with people.

March Memory Verse:

Psalm 9:1 (ESV)

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