

Values
Matthew 5:17-26
Next Steps

OPENING PRAYER:

Almighty God, you who have made all things for us, and us for your glory, sanctify our bodies and souls, our thoughts and our intentions, our words and actions, that whatsoever we shall think or speak or do may by us be designed to the glorification of your name, and let no pride or self-seeking, no impure motive or unworthy purpose, no little ends or low imagination stain our spirits or profane any of our words and actions. But let our bodies be servants to our spirits, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus Christ. --Thomas – Kempis

BREAKING THE ICE:

- Think about a time that someone angered you because they offended you or hurt you in some way and it changed your relationship with them.
- Did you voice your anger?
- Do you have a relationship with them now or are you harboring those feelings?
- Do place any value on that person today?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Matthew 5:17-26.

- Who do you think Jesus is talking to in this passage?
- What do you think when Jesus means in verse 17 about the law of the prophets and what his coming represents?
(Go deeper: Deuteronomy 18:15, Acts 3:22-26, John 1:45)
- What does Jesus mean in verse 20 about our righteousness needing to surpass the Pharisees and teachers of the law?
- In verse 22, what do you think “Raca” (worthless) is equivalent to today? Are there those in your life that you have called them those equivalents out loud or in your heart?
- Why does murder in one’s heart matter if it is not carried out?
- Why must we reconciliation with another before we come to God?
(Go deeper: Matthew 6:5-14)
- How can you change your heart to be righteous before you become angry? After you have become angered?
(Go Deeper: Romans 8:1-4)
- What steps can you take how you value others and your relationships?
- What steps can you take towards reconciliation with others and God?

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION:

- Why do you think there are rules?
- How do you think rules would be easy if you were happy to follow them?
- What is the right thing to do when you get mad at someone?
- How can you ask God to help you when you are mad or do not want to follow rules?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Come, Light serene and still,
Our darkened spirits fill
With thy clear day.
Guide of the feeble sight,
Star of grief's darkest night,

Reveal the path of Right;
Show us thy way.
--Traditional 11th century French prayer