

## Now What?

Week 4 - Mike Curl

*“Does it really have to be this way?”*

**Icebreaker:** What national holiday would you create?

### Topics for Discussion:

- Read **Matthew 5:1-48**
  - Some areas to focus on while you read:
    - Jesus is explaining the Law of Moses (aka: the Law of the Prophets), giving insights into how His kingdom really works.
    - Is Jesus making it easier or harder to follow the Law in this passage?
      - Why?
    - Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, until Heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.” (vs 18)
      - Is that good news or bad for those of us on this side of the resurrection of Christ?
- Jesus had to be born under the Law in order to fulfill it. Now that He has done so, what set of “rules” do we fall under?
  - Read **Matthew 28:16-20**

### Things to Consider:

- Is your faith motivated or based upon rule-keeping (Old Testament) or on a personal relationship with God (New Testament)?
- What are some “rules” in your life that you hold to be of tantamount importance?
  - What is your “law” grounded in? Where does it come from?
  - If someone were to break that rule, would that break the relationship? Why or why not?
- Read **Matthew 5:23** again.
  - For us, in modern times, presenting a sacrifice would be akin to “getting right with God”. But what Jesus is saying is that you can’t get right with God unless you take care of the relationships you have with others.

### Going Deeper:

- While the temple was destroyed on August 6th, 70AD, we have a tendency to let “temple” thinking creep into our walk with Jesus. Part of that is our nature: we desire comfort and predictability from those around us, and we set up rules and barriers to try to ensure and insure that we will get the “best” behavior out of each other. Deep down, though, we know it doesn’t work. Our only saving grace is through Jesus. It is through his power and the Holy Spirit’s work within us that lets us see the movements of the Father on earth and amongst each other. We can love, because He loved us first.

### Prayer:

- We are ambassadors posted to earth on a mission of love and relationship with each other and with God. While this is not our home, we do live here. Pray for the energy and excitement to “get out there” and make a difference in someone’s world this week with no strings attached!