Home CHURCH

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 2 of The Way

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Jesus doesn't just call us to change our behavior. He calls us to experience a change of heart. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reveals that righteousness goes deeper than outward actions. It begins within us and transforms how we think, love, speak, and respond to others.

1. **THE FOUNDATION: God's Word Is Fulfilled** *(Matthew 5:17–20; Hebrews 10:9–14; Jeremiah 31:33)*
   - God's Word was never meant to simply create better behavior. It was meant to lead us into a transformed heart.

   Discuss:
   - *What is the difference between knowing God's Word and allowing God's Word to transform your life?*
   - *Are there areas where you have focused more on managing your outward behavior than allowing God to change your heart?*

2. **THE HEART: Address the Root, Not Just the Behavior** *(Matthew 5:21–32; Genesis 4:6–7; Ephesians 4:26; Romans 12:18)*
   - Jesus calls us to address sin at its root rather than waiting until it produces visible damage. This means dealing honestly with bitterness, resentment, lust, and the condition of our hearts. It also means taking responsibility for pursuing reconciliation when relationships are broken.

   Discuss:
   - *Is there an area of your heart where you have been managing the behavior without addressing the root issue?*
   - *Is there a relationship where you need to take a step toward reconciliation? What might that step look like?*

3. **THE INTEGRITY: Let Your Words and Actions Reflect Your Heart** *(Matthew 5:33–42)*
   - The way of Jesus is not about winning every argument, protecting our pride, or getting the last word. It's about reflecting His character in the way we speak and respond.

Discuss:

- *Do your words carry enough integrity that people can trust what you say without needing you to prove it?*
- *When someone wrongs you, is your natural response to retaliate, defend yourself, or extend grace? Why?*

4. **THE STANDARD: Love Like Your Father** *(Matthew 5:43–48)*
    - Jesus is calling us to demonstrate a love that goes beyond what is natural. When we love those who are difficult to love, we reflect the heart of God.

Discuss:

- *Who is difficult for you to love right now? What makes that relationship challenging?*
- *What would it look like to pray for someone who has hurt, offended, or opposed you?*