

Do you really “get” Jesus’ message?

The fundamental problem in the world is...

Life’s not fair!

In a word, _____

The fundamental problem in our lives is...

We don’t measure up!

In a word, _____

- Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount introduces a Kingdom (way of life) that promises **justice** and redefines **righteousness**.
- Matthew 5:1-12 sets forth the **prerequisites** to enter and experience this King’s way of life, now and forever.
- Matthew 5:13-16 sets forth the **purpose** of this new way of living.
- Matthew 5:17-48 sets forth this King’s way of life by contrasting it with the current interpretation of God’s law.

Old Testament law

1. The law of murder
2. The law of reconciliation
3. The law of adultery
4. The law of divorce
5. The law of oaths
6. The law of retribution
7. The law of love

Jesus' Kingdom values

- Life
- Relationships
- Fidelity
- Marriage
- Integrity
- Mercy
- Everyone

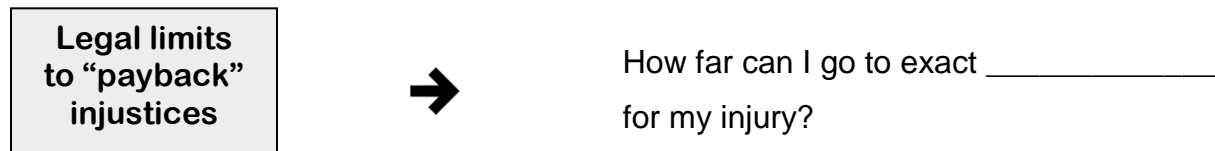
- In each case, Jesus sets forth what **exceeding the righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees looks like for His Kingdom followers. Matthew 5:20
- Jesus makes clear that living out His Kingdom values requires a **new heart** (Jeremiah 31) and **new power** only He can provide. Matthew 7:13-20
- Jesus makes clear that only those with an eternal perspective of His sovereignty (final justice) can live this counter-culture lifestyle. Matthew 7:21-33
- Jesus makes clear that only through death to **personal agendas** and **selfish ambition** can this supernatural life that expands His Kingdom be experienced. Matthew 7:24-28

Jesus' final and most outrageous teaching

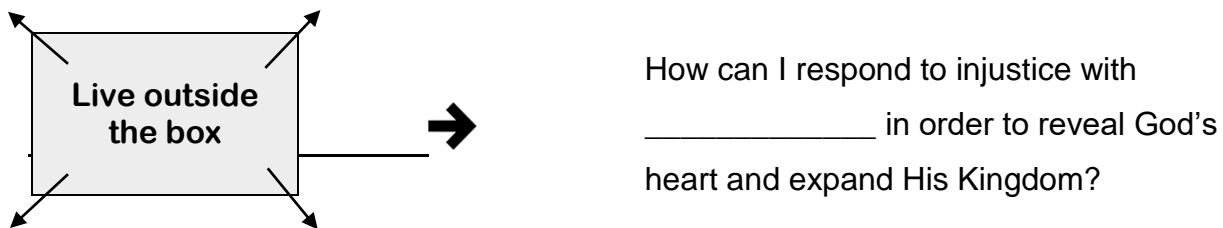
The law of retribution

Matthew 5:38-42

The existing interpretation, purpose, and context of Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:19-20:



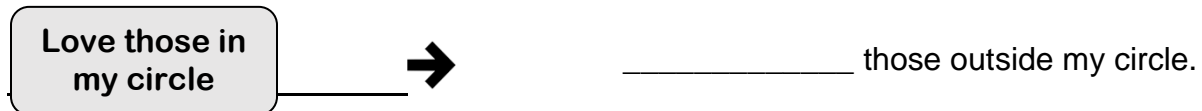
Jesus' new standard of righteousness:



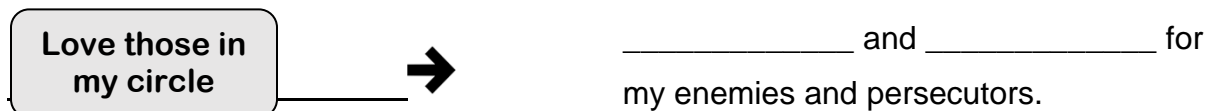
The law of love

Matthew 5:39-48

The existing interpretation, omission, and addition of Lev. 19:18:



Jesus' new standard of righteousness:



We are never more like Jesus than when we treat people in a way they don't deserve.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus' revolutionary message differ from the common notion of "just try to be a good person"?
2. What is needed to live out this supernatural life in His Kingdom? How does this differ from being a nice, moral person?
3. How does a person receive this "new life" and go through the "narrow gate" of life?
4. Where or with whom do you need to release your "personal rights" for vengeance or payback?
5. In what ways could you expand your circle of love this week? Whom do you see as enemies or persecutors? What would loving them look like this week?