

THE HEART OF THE KINGDOM

We are presently the third week discussing the kingdom of God... today our topic is the heart of the kingdom. I want to illustrate how great Jesus is and how much we depend on Him and His grace in our lives.

Jesus in His message the Sermon on the Mount began to discuss the kingdom of God...

Matthew 5:20 – For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly **not enter the kingdom of heaven**. (NIV)

Matthew 5:21 – “You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'... (NLT)

Upgrade of the NC

Matthew 5:22 – But I say, if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the high council. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. (NLT)

Matthew 5:27 – “You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not commit adultery.'

Upgrade

Matthew 5:28 – **But I say**, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (NLT)

Mark 10:26 – Who then can be saved?

Matthew 5:31 – "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a letter of divorce.'

Upgrade:

Matthew 5:32 – But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery...(NLT)

Matthew 5:33 – "Again, you have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.'...

Upgrade:

34But I say, don't make any vows! (NLT)

Matthew 5:48 – Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NIV)

What we need is a new platform for righteousness?

WHAT WE NEED IS JESUS

Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (NIV)

Jesus came to do the work that we cannot do - this is the heart of the kingdom... He fulfilled the law and took our place on the cross... that’s amazing grace!!

Matthew 5:17 – “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. (NKJV)

He is our new platform for our righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 – God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

We are no longer judged or condemned by the law but by His sinless life.

Galatians 2:20-21 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God...