



Leader

3/9 - Matthew 5:13-20

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read through Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus shifts from the beatitudes and begins to tell his audience about salt and light, painting a picture of contrast and influence in the world. What do you think is on Jesus' heart and mind at this moment as He looks out over all the people?

Jesus always cared for the multitudes and his care for them here is very present in his words. He knows that there is darkness and brokenness among them and that He is the light of men.

3. As Jesus speaks to this audience (with his disciples nearest him) in verses 13-16, what was inferred to His disciples as He spoke?

He knows that so many are in need of rescue of the soul and that His disciples are going to be the primary vehicle to distributing hope to the people.

4. When you consider your life and your daily activity, do you think others would describe you as being salt and light in the world? Your friends, coworkers?

[Dialogue]

5. In verse 17, Jesus refers to fulfilling the law. What are some examples of Jesus "setting aside" and fulfilling laws?

Examples:

- **Ceremonial Law**: The sacrificial system was set aside and no longer needed because Jesus was the last, final and perfect sacrifice. He was the sacrificial lamb that took away the sins of the world.

- **Moral Law**: Jesus lived in perfect righteousness. He met every standard of God. He not only fulfilled the moral law but commissioned the disciples to continue to uphold God's moral standards as ambassadors to the world.

- **Judicial or Civic Law**: The judicial law was given to Israel by God so that they would be set apart from the world (laws concerning agriculture, cleanliness, diet, dress, etc). When Jesus was crucified, the people of Israel were no longer the only ones who could belong to God, thus setting aside the judicial law. Jesus Christ inaugurated a new kingdom, one which is available to all who call upon his name. Assembled together, these believers are called the Church.

6. What is Jesus saying when he refers to greatest and least commandments in verse 19? Is there a type of hierarchy? What is an illustration of this that you could provide to help a child understand this concept?

Some of God's commandments and standards are greater in significance than others (we know this because consequences vary based on the transgression), but none of these are to be disregarded.

Illustration: It is not right to steal, but it is also not right to be jealous or desire what someone else has.

7. What has been the most impactful beatitude or portion of text in this sermon series for you?

[Dialogue]

8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]

- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- John MacArthur Commentary - Matthew