

THE RED LETTERS

What did Jesus *actually* say?

What About Righteousness? Part 1

Matthew 5:1-48

1. What does righteousness look like?

2. Rule-keeping will never make you righteous.
Tending to your heart is required.

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

1. What does “poor in spirit” mean (Matthew 5:3)? Why is it so important to embrace this view of yourself? Why is it so freeing?
2. Read through the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-16). Which Beatitude speaks most to you? How would your life change if these were true of you?
3. Notice the contrast between the rules (laws) in the “you have heard...”, and “I tell you...” statements in Matthew 5:21-22; 27-28; 31-32; 33-34; 38-39; 43-44. Have someone in the group explain the acorn and the oak forest principle.
4. As you read Matthew 5:48, what do you think Jesus wants you to know and do?

MEMORY VERSE

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3