



If Jesus visited our church today, what would He say to us? What would He say about how we treat one another, how we live our lives, and the future? What's fascinating is that we actually know what He might think and say...all we have to do is look at the red letters. In many Bibles, Jesus' words stand apart—they're printed in red. We're going to look at these words to realign with what Jesus actually said and what that means for us today.

Part One: WHAT ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Text: Matthew 5:1-48

Discussion Questions: *The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. Leader urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.*

- 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?
- 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?
- 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.
- 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

Application:**What can we do?**

- Confront our anger.
- Speak well of people.
- Rapidly restore broken relationships.
- Work through differences before they escalate.

Prayer Time:

Ask the group if there is any point of application (above) that they need God's help and power to address. Offer to open up a prayer time for those people. Have the group pray for them.

Assignments:

- Read Matthew 5:27-48 and identify the five further examples and commands in this section of Matthew.
- Read Matthew chapters 6 and 7 as preparation for next Sunday's sermon.