

# Message Series Group Discussion

INFO	
Series	What if Jesus Was Serious?
Sermon/Date	Inside-Out Righteousness, May 1-2, 2021
Main Idea/Summary	Pleasing God is not about our actions, but about the condition of our hearts, as it is the source of all our thoughts and actions.
Scripture	Matthew 5: 21-37; Jeremiah 31:31-34

QUESTIONS	
About God	In this week's reading, Jesus refers to the Pharisees, who were considered the "upper crust" of Jewish society, experts in Jewish law, and prided themselves in following it to the extreme. What did Jesus mean when he said that "...unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5: 20) Does this help you understand why Jesus equates lust with adultery, and anger with murder?
About Me	How much effort or time do you spend in self-contemplation or self-evaluation? Do you mostly consider your actions, your thoughts, or the condition of your heart?
Community	Think about the authoritative figures in your life - parents, teachers, your boss at work, community and national leaders, In your experience, how much emphasis has been placed on the three key elements in one's relationship with others: the condition of one's heart toward others; one's thoughts about others; one's actions toward others. Does your experience with other authority figures influence your thoughts about God? If so, how?
Mission	Do you ever "borrow integrity" by the way you use language/oaths/swearing? Is there anyone with whom you need to repair a relationship as you look at your own heart as the source of your thoughts and actions? Can you forgive someone who has broken covenant with you? Even if you paid for what they did? How did Jesus do this?
Action	Since you cannot be "righteous" by your own efforts, is there a place in your heart that you need to surrender to God, and ask for his grace and strength to make a change?

God, in our own strength, we are helpless to live a life that pleases you. We acknowledge that we have often judged ourselves by our good actions, excused our bad choices, blamed them on others, or even hated ourselves and felt like giving up. We ask that you write your law on our hearts, so that what flows from our hearts will be thoughts and actions that please you, and draw others to lives marked by joy and peace. In the name of Jesus, Amen.