

NEW: FINDING YOUR HUMANITY

NEW LAW

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – February 19, 2017

- Open by reading Matthew 5:38-42. Ask the Holy Spirit to give us understanding and the courage to obey Jesus and embody His Kingdom.
- Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "In the 1st Century, 2nd Temple Jewish context of Jesus' world, He was teaching and calling God's people into a new way of living. The old way of living for the Jewish people was called the Law of Retribution. Jesus is introducing the Law of Grace."

How do we live by the Law of Grace instead of the Law of Retribution?

1. Read Matthew 5:38. Jesus is quoting the Law of Retribution found in Exodus 21:23-25, Leviticus 24:20, and Deuteronomy 19:21.
 - *Note: The Law of Retribution was given for two reasons: (1) Justice and (2) "This principle of equal retribution curbs violence and prevents vengeance from spinning out of control." Scot McKnight, Ph.D, The Story of God Bible Commentary, Sermon on the Mount, 2013.*
 - a. Pastor Derwin taught, "You must embrace life in Jesus' Kingdom by letting go of how you've been wronged." Read Ephesians 4:31-32. According to this text, how are we to respond?
 - b. Reflect on and discuss these thoughts:
 - "Am I going to treat you as you deserve? Or am I going to treat you as God treated me in Christ?"
 - "Is my desire to get even with you greater than God's mercy towards me?"
 - c. Read Ephesians 1:7. How did God treat us in Christ?
 - d. Pastor Derwin said, "God the Papa's heart towards sinners is kindness and grace. And when we have drunk deeply from His eternal fountain of kindness and mercy, it splashes onto people who hurt us. Therefore, we can live by the new Law of Grace, not the old Law of Retribution." Discuss.
 - e. Read Colossians 1:13. How did the Abba (Papa) respond to us in Christ? What did He do for us?
 - Discuss this statement: "Jesus' kingdom is different, we live by a new set of values that say, 'Don't get even, give grace.'"
2. In the face of hurt, be ready to act in grace, love, and compassion.
 - Read Matthew 5:39. In the background of this ancient rabbinic teaching, the more you are slapped the more money they owe you!
 - "One who slaps his fellow, he gives him two hundred zuz (\$50,000); with the back of the hand, he gives him four hundred zuz (\$100,000)." Mishnah Baba Qamma 8:6 (190 AD- 230 AD).
 - *Note: By turning the other cheek, it's a form of shaming the person who is acting unjustly towards you. Evil is defeated by acts of courageous love. Also, Jesus does what He asks us to do. Read Matthew 26:67-68.*
 3. Read Matthew 5:40 NIV. In Jesus' context, a person's robe was used both as a cover and a sleeping blanket, but it was prohibited to take such from an Israelite for any length of time (Exodus 22:26-27; Deuteronomy 24:12-13). Jesus is basically saying strip naked to show the oppressor how inhumane his or her injustice towards you is. Once again, it is a form of holy shaming. Also, Jesus was stripped naked. Read Matthew 27:35-37 NIV. Discuss.
 4. Read Matthew 5:41 NIV. By law, a Roman soldier could force a Jew to carry their supplies for a mile. Jesus is saying go two miles! Once again, defeat oppression with love. Shame the Roman soldier with love. Discuss.
 5. Read Matthew 5:42. Jesus is speaking of being generous. Sadly, the average Christ-follower gives 2.3% towards the church and her mission to make a difference in the world. Discuss.

[Note: See article here where 2.3% number was given. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/25/church-giving-down-depression-era-lows_n_4159538.html]

Soul-tattoo: Journal and ask Jesus how He wants to transform your life through this sermon.