

A Righteous Life

Matthew 5:17-20

Righteousness = _____ in _____

How will we respond to God's righteousness?

1. Don't _____ it

2. Don't _____ on _____

3. Do _____ it

For Further Reflection and Discussion

Opener: Who was your favorite childhood friend? Why?

How did God speak to you or work in you at church this Sunday?

What does it look like when a someone tries to have a relationship with God while rejecting the idea that there are standards of behavior God calls us to?

- What kind of results will this produce?

Have you ever been in an environment that seemed to make a relationship with God conditioned on right behavior? (On Sunday, Pastor Tim used the term "bounded set" to describe this.)

- What was that like? How did it feel? What did it produce in you and the people around you?

When Christians find that they can't meet God's standard on their own, what are some things they tend to do?

Read Matthew 5:17-20, Romans 3:21-22 and II Corinthians 5:21. How is it that our righteousness can surpass that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

- How do we access and apply this in our lives?

What's the difference between engaging in a spiritual discipline (e.g., reading your Bible, praying, fasting, etc.) from a "bounded set" versus a "centered set" mentality?

If you had a friend who was struggling with a sinful habit or addiction, and they came to you for help, how would you counsel them? What would be helpful steps for them to take? What should they avoid?

What kind of response to His Word is God calling you to today?

How can we pray for each other?