



Jesus' gospel is not just the offer of salvation, but the declaration of sovereignty. This is the clear message of his Sermon on the Mount. It is a call to find the truly blessed life by taking a narrow path most won't choose—the way of King Jesus.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Rick began this message by pointing out that *"It is possible to follow the rule and completely miss the point."* How have you seen that to be true and what were the negative implications? Follow up: When are you most tempted to live like that?

**2 KING JESUS... has a high view of all scripture.** Jesus saw part of his mission as completely fulfilling the law. **Read Matthew 5:17-20.** Why might some people have thought that Jesus came to abolish the law? What is the significance of God's law being permanent? Follow up: How does Jesus emphasize his high view of scripture? What portions of the Bible have you tended to skip over or neglect? How might those portions actually help you grow as a follower of Jesus?

**3 KING JESUS... has a low view of most righteousness.** *The great temptation in religion is to produce and endorse a kind of piety that looks good on the outside but is rotten on the inside.* How have you experienced this to be true? Follow up: What kind of righteousness is King Jesus calling for (**see Matthew 5:20**)?

**4 Read Matthew 5:21-37.** What was Jesus' overarching message to His followers concerning these specific commands? Which of these commands do you struggle with the most? Follow up: What are some practical things you can do to stand against the temptation to sin in these areas?

**5 KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS... calls for a deeper obedience.** *God's law was never meant to be applied externally, because we live from the heart.* What does it mean to say that you live from your heart? **Read Proverbs 4:23.** What are some practical ways you can guard your heart? Follow up: Why are comments like, *"that was so unlike me, I didn't really mean it, that's not who I really am"* not good excuses for bad behavior (**see Matthew 15:19**)? Based on the examples Jesus shares, what kind of a person is he wanting you to become?

**6 KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS... cares about a wider audience.** *Kingdom righteousness is horizontal, not just vertical.* What did Rick mean when he said kingdom righteousness is horizontal as well as vertical? How does Jesus say that we can keep rules and still hurt people (look back at **Matthew 5:21-37**)? Follow up: Why is it important to remember that the target has always been *to love God and love people*?

**7 Rick closed by reminding us that King Jesus wants your heart...all of it!** *He's not at war with your heart; he's at war for your heart. He wants you to know the joy that comes from living life on target.* Share some examples of people who live like that. What impresses you the most about how they live? Follow up: What is one step you can take this week to live more like that too?

