

RECLAIMING JESUS

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RECLAIMING JESUS: A NEW RABBI

MESSAGE SUMMARY: JESUS WAS A NEW RABBI THAT CAME WITH A NEW TEACHING CALLING A NEW KIND OF DISCIPLE.

ENGAGING THE WORD: AFTER HEARING THE SERMON YOU HAVE PROBABLY BEEN DYING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, "WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COVER SONG?" MAYBE IT IS ONE YOU HAVE HEARD ON THE RADIO OR MAYBE IT IS JUST YOUR COVER VERSION OF A SONG THAT YOU LIKE TO SING IN THE CAR OR IN THE SHOWER.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT STOOD OUT TO YOU IN THE SERMON? THINGS YOU SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO? THINGS YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND? ANY NEW INSIGHT YOU ARE TAKING AWAY?

READ MATTHEW 5:17-20:

1. IN 5:17, JESUS SAYS HE HAS COME, "NOT TO ABOLISH THEM (LAW AND PROPHETS) BUT TO FULFILL THEM" (NIV). WHAT DID JESUS MEAN BY THIS? WHY WOULD THIS STATEMENT HAVE BEEN SHOCKING TO JESUS' AUDIENCE?
2. WHAT IS JESUS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE SAYS FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHOULD SURPASS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE PHARISEES AND TEACHERS OF THE LAW? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

READ MATTHEW 5:21-48

1. IN MATTHEW 5 YOU SEE SEVERAL TIMES THAT JESUS SAYS, "YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID... BUT I SAY...!". WHAT IS THE DISTINCTION THAT JESUS MAKES? WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
2. WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS GAVE THIS NEW TEACHING? WHAT WAS INCOMPLETE WITH THE TEACHING OF THE OTHER RABBIS THAT JESUS NEEDED TO UPDATE IT?

ENGAGING THE HEART:

1. AS JESUS CALLS US TO BECOME LIKE HIM, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS THAT WE SHOULD SEE DEVELOPING IN OUR LIVES. (EX. LOVE, JUSTICE, COMPASSION...) WHY ARE THESE APPEALING CHARACTERISTICS FOR US TO HAVE IN OUR LIVES?
2. WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP US BECOME MORE LIKE OUR RABBI JESUS?
3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU THAT JESUS CALLS YOU TO BECOME LIKE HIM AND BELIEVES IN YOU?

ENGAGING OUR WORLD: JESUS WAS A NEW KIND OF RABBI CALLING A NEW KIND OF DISCIPLE. WHILE OTHER RABBIS OF THE TIME CALLED THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST TO FOLLOW THEM JESUS CALLED THE COMMON, THE ORDINARY, THE "NOT GOOD ENOUGH" - PEOPLE LIKE US. SPEND SOME TIME THIS WEEK AND REFLECT ON WHAT IT MEANS THAT RABBI JESUS HAS CALLED YOU TO FOLLOW HIM. THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE THAT NOT ONLY WANTS TO KNOW WHAT HIS/HER RABBI KNOWS, BUT TO BECOME LIKE HIM.

AS YOU CLOSE IN PRAYER PRAY FOR EACH OTHER TO BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS.