

Sermon on the Mount: Right Relationships, Right Hearts

Small Group Discussion Guide

Matthew 5:6-8: Blessings of Righteousness, Mercy, & Purity of heart

1. It seems like in the current political climate, “justice” and “righteousness” have become hot button words depending on one’s politics. How do you feel about these words and how do you currently relate to them? Do you think the politics of our day are different than what Jesus meant here in His sermon?
2. Often times “social justice” and “personal righteousness” indicate how conservative or liberal a person’s view of Christianity is in the American church. Do you think Justice should be viewed through this kind of lens?
3. What would it look like practically for you to pursue goodness and “right relating” in your relationships, workplace, community, & country?
4. When have you found it difficult to show mercy to someone, even though you have experienced mercy yourself? What do you think is hard about extending mercy to another person?
5. When have you experienced the overwhelming, all encompassing, forgiveness and kindness of God and others that exemplifies mercy in your life?
6. What idols do you see being mixed together with Christianity? If you are honest, what idols do you find most tempting to mix with your relationship with God? How do you think that might distort your relationship with Him?
7. Share a testimony with the group about a time when God and his will were clear and present in tangible ways. What part did purity play, if any, in that spiritual clarity?