

The Heart of the Matter:

Conquering Anger from Within

Matthew 5:17-26 PODS Small Group Discussion Questions

1. This question is for fun. When it comes to board games or sports, are you more of a rule follower or a rule bender/stretchers?
2. What key insight from the sermon challenged your understanding of the relationship between external religious activity and internal heart change?
3. How does understanding Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law deepen our view of God's ultimate plan for righteousness?
4. Jesus says our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees (Matt. 5:20). Why is this standard both impossible and necessary? How does this point to our need for Christ's righteousness?
5. Jesus links anger and contempt to violating the spirit of the law (Matt. 5:21-22). How do unchecked anger and contempt threaten your relationship with God and others?
6. Why is reconciliation essential for genuine worship, and what steps can you take today to promote peace with someone you may be estranged from?
7. Jesus warns about spoken contempt, calling someone 'Raca' or a 'fool', and its danger of hellfire (Matthew 5:22). How does controlling our words and attitudes reflect the true righteousness Jesus desires?
8. God desires inward heart change over external performance. In what areas of your life do you need God's transforming power to confront anger, bitterness, or contempt?
9. Reconciliation is presented as a preventative measure against bigger problems (Matthew 5:25-26). How can actively seeking peace in conflicts save you from greater consequences and spiritual harm?
10. How can your PODS small group pray for you?