



YOU'VE HEARD IT SAID (Part 1) - "Where We Find Value"

Matthew 5:21-22 NIV

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister, will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:27-30 NIV

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 NIV

33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.

Key Points

- The Law is insufficient to govern human societies.
- Valuing character frees us from the safety of being shallow
- Valuing authenticity frees us from concealing, calculating, and playing games.
- Valuing generosity frees us from hoarding and worry.
- Valuing reconciliation frees us from revenge and preserving our rights.
- The foundation of belonging and provision allows us to pursue this way of life.
- Faith is trust that is willing to take a step.
- Our relationship with Jesus is the most formative force in our lives.

READ

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- Read Matthew 5:21-22 and Matthew 5:27-30. How does acknowledging the heart's role in our actions impact our approach to living out our faith? In what ways did Jesus elevate the minimal standard of the law?
- Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. God promises to give His people a new heart and spirit. What does this transformation signify, and how does it relate to the broader theme of spiritual renewal?
- Read Jeremiah 31:33-34. How does knowing God personally shape one's understanding of forgiveness and grace?

REFLECT

- Why was the law insufficient to govern our hearts?
- How did Jesus introduce a radical reorientation to others within the Sermon on the Mount?

RESPOND

- Character, authenticity, generosity, and reconciliation. Which quality do you struggle to value most and why? What would embracing this value free you from?
- Faith is trust that is willing to take a step. Where do you need to display faith and what would taking a step in this area look like for you?

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.