

discussion guide for April 15th

“EXTREME MAKEOVER-Week 1”

Changed By Christ’s Toughest Words

Matthew 5:17-20 (p. 1252-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

How do you feel about keeping rules?

God established some rules in the Old Testament. By the time Jesus came, those rules had been interpreted into volumes with hundreds of rules for righteousness.

We have hundreds of rules in just about every area of life as well. Take traffic rules for example:

- Why do we need traffic rules?
- What are different attitudes people have about traffic rules?
- How would you define a righteous driver?

*“DSB”=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Jesus’ disciples were confused about the validity of the Old Testament. Are you? What attitude should Christians have toward the Old Testament writings?

1. Observe Christ’s Attitude Toward God’s Rules. Read Mt. 5:17-18, (p. 1252, DSB*).

[Espresso: Jesus expects followers to realize the validity of the Old Testament by observing His devotion and obedience.]

- Define “abolish” and “fulfill” in vs. 17.
- How did Jesus emphasize the longevity of the Old Testament in vs. 18? What are jots and tittles?
- Describe ways Jesus verified the O.T. scriptures in:
 - the practice of His life?
 - the precepts of His teaching?
 - the prophecy He fulfilled?
 - the penalty He paid for sin?
 - the people He claimed as disciples?

2. Copy Christ’s Attitude Toward God’s Rules. Read Mt. 5:19-20, (p. 1254, DSB*).

[Espresso: Jesus highlighted the Pharisees as an example of the wrong kind of attitude toward God’s rules.]

- Jesus used the words “practice” and “teach” in vs. 19 to describe real righteous living. Why must they co-exist? Describe practice without teaching or teaching without practice?
- How was the Pharisees’ righteousness:
 - External rather than internal?
 - Partial rather than total?
 - Ceremonial rather than spiritual?
 - Self-centered rather than God centered?

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

There is more Pharisee in most of us than we want to admit. The hard teachings of Christ are not meant to depress us, but rather to inspire and transform us in a lifelong process of becoming more and more like Him. After all, doesn't Christian literally mean "little Christ."

What would a modern Pharisee look like? Think of one example of how Christians might reflect a Pharisee in each of the following areas of righteousness:

External instead of internal: _____

Partial instead of total: _____

Ceremonial instead of spiritual: _____

Self-centered instead of God-centered: _____

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for God's help in understanding true righteousness and in practicing it.
- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving _____ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the "Savor" section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving these in a daily e-mail, [Sign up for "The Daily Cup" e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](mailto:herb@hbcaustin.org)

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

Last Sunday you observed Jesus' attitude toward God's rules. You were also challenged to copy Jesus' attitude toward God's rules. These daily readings and thought questions should continue to challenge you as you think about how Jesus fulfills the law of God.

Monday, April 16: Read Exodus 20:1-17, (p. 97-98-DSB*). Which of these commandments is hardest for you to keep? How did Jesus raise the standards portrayed in these verses?

Tuesday, April 17: Read Deuteronomy 5:31-33, (p.222-DSB*). Why did God pass down rules for His children to live by? In your opinion, are those rules still valid for us today? What benefits did God promise for those who followed His precepts?

Wednesday, April 18: Read John 14:21, (p. 1419-DSB*). What does Jesus expect of those who Love Him? Why is obedience a natural result of loving God? What does disobedience indicate? What would you say to someone who says they love God while living in disobedience to His rules?

Thursday, April 19: Read 1 John 2: 3-6, (p. 1650-DSB*). What indicates that a person "knows" God? How can you know you are a Christian? What does it mean to have God's love made complete in you? How does verse 6 challenge you?

Friday, April 20: Read Acts 5:29-32, (p. 1442-DSB*). What is the relationship of faith and practice indicated in these verses? What is the significance of the word "must" used in vs. 29? To whom is given the Holy Spirit according to vs. 30?

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