

Words of the King: Matthew 5:31-37
Discussion Guide, November 15, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 5:38-48

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Option 1: Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. - Matthew 5:23-24

Option 2: You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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. - Matthew 5:27-29

- Did you take any intentional action steps in response to the sermon on the mount this past week?

OPEN:

- How important are the words that we speak to others? Why?
 - o Do you think our society "takes words seriously"?

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:3-9

- What do you think Jesus' main focus is in this teaching?
- What is the best way to think about marriage and divorce?
- What questions do you still have about this passage?
 - o What other texts bring insight into this text?
- Why does Jesus give exceptions to "no divorce"?
 - o Why should that make us think more seriously about marriage rather than justifying our actions?
- What can people do to strengthen their marriage?
- On what or whom can a Christian depend to help him or her solve marriage problems?

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:33-37

- Does this text mean that we should never sign a contract or take an oath in court? Why or why not?
- What does it say about our words if we are always having to preface what we say with "I promise" or "I swear on the Bible"?
- What is the bottom line of this text? What is it teaching us?

APPLY:

- What can a person do when his or her marriage is in trouble?
- In what ways have you struggled to be a person of your word?
 - o Do people find your words reliable? Why do you think so?
 - o In what way do you need to become a better person of your word?
- NEXT STEP: What can you do this week to strengthen your marriage or help strengthen the marriage of a friend?
- NEXT STEP: How do you need to be more intentional in "meaning what you say and saying what you mean" this week?

Memory Work:

All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. - Matthew 5:37