

Giving Up The Need to Be Right • Week #3

Matthew 5:17-20 & 6:22-23

Open:

- How do you typically respond to someone who has all the “right answers” and refuses to listen to the opinions of others? When do you become like that?

Discuss:

How we get stuck in our sense of rightness	Place in order of tendency for you	How can you prevent . . .
<p>Confirmation Bias: when we choose what to believe first and then look for reasons to explain why we believe it.</p>		
<p>Illusion of Deep Understanding: when we pass along antidotal information about a subject as if it were well researched facts.</p>		
<p>Tribal Reinforcement: when we automatically believe that our group’s opinions and perspectives are the truth and the way to live life.</p>		
<p>Pride: when we have an excessive belief in our own abilities, that interferes with our recognition of God’s grace and work in our lives.</p>		

Read together Matthew 5:17-20 & 6:22-23 ...

- Place yourself on the scene of these passages and describe the scene in your own words. What stands out to you? Surprises you? Challenges you? Why?
- What do you think would have been the response from the crowds to Jesus saying, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (5:20)
- What do you think Jesus meant by this?

Place yourself on the spectrum below and share through the questions that follow.

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Rightness:

aimed at securing and justifying and advancing myself.

Righteousness:

advancing the common good by seeking a deeper relationship with Christ and one another.

- What steps are you taking to develop humility?
- What steps are you taking towards righteousness? How does worship, spiritual growth and service play a part?

Referencing our Lenten devotional booklet, what is one thought or idea from Chad Negley's piece that especially intrigued, provoked, disturbed, challenged, encouraged, warmed, helped, or surprised you?

- How does holding onto the need to be right, hinder your life with Christ and others?
- How does giving up the need to be right, grow your life with Christ and others?

Practices for the Week to Help You Give Up The Need to Be Right:

Practice giving up your need to be right through silence.

This week make it your practice not to speak unless spoken to. Be pleasant, smile, acknowledge others but unless asked or directed keep silent. Each day prayerfully journal your discoveries and tensions. What did you learn about God? Others? Yourself?

Meditate on giving up the need to be right by memorizing Matthew 6:22-23.

Readings that will help you give up the need to be right . . .

- *The Way of the Heart*, by Henri Nouwen • Chapter entitled *Silence*.