



(RE)THINKING

Sunday, April 21, 2024

TITLE: Reading Righteously

TEXT: Matthew 5:17-20

WRONG WAYS OF READING

- **For** _____: reading the Bible just to know what it says
- _____-**Driven:** reading it to foster and further your own political, theological, ideological, or social agenda
- **The Gospel According to** _____: reading according to how your favorite teacher or prophet or charismatic leader teaches the Bible.

JESUS' WAY OF READING (AND LIVING)

#1: THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO _____

Accusation: Jesus came to _____ the Law and the Prophets

Reality: Jesus came to _____ the Law and the Prophets

John 5:39 – "You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about _____."

#2: JESUS DOESN'T JUST WANT YOUR OBEDIENCE. HE WANTS YOUR
_____.

Dallas Willard: He knew that we cannot keep the law by trying to keep the law. To succeed in keeping the law one must aim at something other and something more. One must aim to become the *kind of person* from whom the deeds of the law naturally flow.

"The one who has my _____ and keeps them is the one who _____ me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him."

"If you keep my _____ you will remain in my _____, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."

#3: HOW YOU _____ MATTERS.

A Greater Righteousness

"Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

"Love the Lord your God with all your _____, and with all your _____, and with all your _____. And you must love your _____ as yourself. On these two commands hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Skye Jethani: "He doesn't merely desire people who appear good, or even those who do good; He wants people who are good. That kind of inside-out transformation cannot be achieved through laws alone."

2 Corinthians 5:21 – He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS

Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) – So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

GOING DEEPER | Study & Discussion Questions

1. Do you find yourself falling into one of the "Wrong Ways" when reading the Bible? What other wrong ways of reading can you think of? Why does the way we approach the Bible matter?
2. Jesus places a high value on Scripture (what we would consider the Old Testament). How would you respond to someone who insists we don't need the Old Testament to follow Jesus or that it's "obsolete?"
3. Can you give other examples of how the Scriptures point to Jesus? How does it change your understanding of the Bible to see Jesus on every page?
4. How can we ensure that our hearts and hands are involved in the process, not just our heads?