

## People Matter

### Matthew 5:21-26

You're not Good Enough. And that's a Good Thing

Growth Group Questions

February 18, 2018



1. Explore the concept of "othering". (Here's a useful reminder: "Othering" occurs when we mentally classify an individual or group as "not one of us". Rather than remembering that every person is created in God's image and is a complex bundle of emotions, experiences, histories, ideas, and priorities, it's sometimes easier to dismiss them as being in some ways less human and less worthy of respect and dignity than we are.)
  
2. Who do you find yourself "othering"? Be honest with yourself, with your group.
  
3. Remember, Jesus is not teaching a message of "do more, try harder": that is not good news! As we need to repent of our "othering" and obey by "including", let's again practice the Gospel of Jesus:
  - a. What is God's command in Philippians 2.3b-4?
  
  - b. Confess, I'm not good enough. I can't and I don't want to obey God (explore this).
  
  - c. How did Jesus obey this command perfectly? How did Jesus do what I should do? Point to specific illustrations in God's word.
  
  - d. Because Jesus obeyed all of God's commands perfectly and now lives in me, and I am accepted by God, I am now free to obey this command by His grace and power working in me. Celebrate. Recalling your answer to question #2, take steps to obey, welcoming in those you have excluded.

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Message Notes

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1. Do all people really matter to God?

Genesis 9.6; 1.26-27

2. What's Easy to Do When People Don't Matter to Us

Matthew 5.21-26

3. Jesus Pushes Us to See All People Matter to Him

Matthew 5.17-20, 21-26

CS Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

- Will you listen to Jesus inside you?
- Who are you "othering"?
- Who will you "include"?