



Beneath the Surface
January 26, 2025 | Matthew 5:21-48
Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read Matthew 5:21-48.*

1. Ice-breaker: Share a funny (and probably gross) story about finding a container full of moldy food in your fridge or cutting into a kind of fruit and realizing it's rotten. Vote as a group on who has the most disgusting story.
2. The main point of this passage (Matt. 5:21-48) is that "True righteousness is a matter of the heart. Who we are on the inside matters." Why does who we are on the inside matter so much? (Dig deeper: Contrast this kind of righteousness Jesus is calling us to with the supposed righteousness of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:25-28.)
3. Below you'll find each sub-section of Matthew 5:21-48, where Jesus provides examples driving home His main idea ("true righteousness is a matter of the heart"). Read each example, then work together to (1) summarize each section in your own words and (2) share how each set of verses reinforces Jesus' larger point:
 - Matthew 5:21-26
 - Matthew 5:27-30
 - Matthew 5:31-32
 - Matthew 5:33-37
 - Matthew 5:38-42
 - Matthew 5:43-47
4. Does one of these sub-sections of Jesus' teaching stand out to you in a special way? Why?
5. How does this passage both remind us of our need for the gospel and point to the transforming power of the gospel?
6. How does what you've learned about Jesus in this passage affect what following Him faithfully looks like, practically speaking?
7. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible today?
8. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?