

HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 6:1-4, 33

Observation questions

1. According to Matthew 6:1, what warning does Jesus give about practicing righteousness in front of others, and what does He say about our motives?
2. What three practices of righteous living does the message identify from Matthew 6? How do caring for those in need, prayer, and fasting work together to give us a fuller picture of righteousness?
3. According to Romans 4, how was Abraham counted as righteous? What does the message teach about the relationship between faith and obedience?
4. What do Jeremiah 22:16, Isaiah 58:6-8, and James 1:27 reveal about God's heart toward the poor, the needy, widows, and orphans?

Interpretation questions

1. Mark describes righteousness as both positional and progressive. What is the difference between being made righteous through faith in Jesus and becoming more like Jesus throughout our lives?
2. Why does the speaker say many Christians may have a "partial understanding" of righteousness? How can someone prioritize prayer, Bible reading, worship, and church attendance while still overlooking something important to God?
3. In the fireworks illustration, what does the missing tube represent? How does caring for and loving others help put our faith on display in the way Jesus intended? Pasted text
4. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus says that serving "the least of these" is the same as serving Him. What does this teach us about the connection between loving Jesus and caring for people in need?

RICH IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Application questions

1. Before hearing this sermon, how would you have defined living a righteous life?
Has this message changed or expanded your definition? Why?
2. Mark asks, “Who do you have for me today?” Who might God be putting in your life right now for you to encourage, serve, or care for?
3. Which comes more naturally to you: focusing on your personal relationship with God or noticing and responding to the needs of others? What could help you grow in the area that is more difficult?
4. Are there needs around you that you have noticed but have not acted on?
What has kept you from responding?
5. Caring for people in need can involve more than financial giving. How could you use your time, resources, talents, relationships, or influence to care for someone this week?
6. Mark describes God as the author of generosity, reminding us that God gave everything for us when we had nothing to offer Him. How should remembering God’s generosity toward us influence the way we give to others?
7. What is one specific action you can take this week to “not forget the tube” and live out a more complete picture of righteousness? Who will you serve, what will you do, and when will you do it?