**3 MARKS OF GENUINE DISCIPLES**

**Matthew 5:33-42**

**THE BIG IDEA: Jesus has called His followers to a kingdom ethic that is counter-cultural.**

**JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE KNOWN AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTEGRITY**

* *“Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.”* (Matthew 5:36-37)
* **If you have to “promise” you are telling the truth whenever you are speaking then you probably are not seen as trustworthy.**
* *“Lying lips are detestable to the Lord, but faithful people are his delight.”* (Proverbs 12:22)
* *“Better a poor person who lives with integrity than someone who has deceitful lips and is a fool.”* (Proverbs 19:1)
* **When you become known as a truth teller you won’t have to go out of your way to convince people of your truthfulness.**
* *“I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.”* (3 John 1:4)

**JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE KNOWN AS PEOPLE WHO ARE MERCIFUL**

* *“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. 39 But I tell you, don’t resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”* (Matthew 5:38-39)
* **Jesus never instructed us to endure physical abuse without defending ourselves; He used the example of turning the other cheek to illustrate that as Christians we should not seek retribution when we are wronged.**
* *“Don’t say, ‘I will avenge this evil!’ Wait on the Lord, and he will rescue you.”* (Proverbs 20:22)
* **Living as Kingdom citizens in this world demands that we avoid retaliation while striving for reconciliation.**
* *“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone’s eyes…Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God’s wrath, because it is written,* ***Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,*** *says the Lord.”* (Romans 12:17,19)
* *“See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
* *“Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, 9 not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing.”* (1 Peter 3:8-9)

**JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE KNOWN AS PEOPLE WHO ARE SELFLESS**

* *“As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:40-42)*
* **Truly following Jesus involves denying certain things so that we can be a blessing to others.**
* *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:3-4)
* *“Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.”* (Luke 6:31)
* **Jesus does not call His followers to a life of being taken advantage of, but a life that is self-centered is foreign to New Testament Christianity.**
* *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. 26 For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done.’”* (Matthew 16:24-27)

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What do we learn about God/Jesus in Matthew 5:33-42?
* What was the problem with the religious people and oath taking in the 1st Century?
* What was Jesus trying to communicate about the difference between His followers and everyone else regarding integrity?
* In what context was the “eye for an eye” law applied in the Old Testament? Why was it not meant for individual revenge?
* What was the significance of the “coat” referenced in verse 41? What about the “mile” in verse 41?

**Digging Deeper:**

* In what ways are you tempted with finding “loopholes” to avoid telling the full truth in certain situations?
* Is partial truth the same as a lie? Why or why not?
* How are you doing at living and speaking in such a way that you don’t need to “qualify” what you say with a promise?
* What are some struggles with not seeking revenge when you are wronged? Why should we respond with mercy?
* What are some ways you can “give your coat too” and “go the extra mile” in your daily life?
* What is the most challenging aspect of this study for you?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.

**CONNECT GROUP SCHEDULE**

**Connect Groups –**

* **G1 Student Ministry (Grades 6-12) –** Sundays 9am-10:15am upstairs.
* **Sundays @ 9am** (Ladies Only – Led by Marcia Cox) Renew Church Classroom
* **Sundays @ 9am** (Co-ed led by Joey & Sabrina Welch) Renew Church Classroom
* TBD - (College Group Led by Pastor Checkerz)
* **Mondays @ 6:30pm** (Co-ed Led by Randy Vinson) Hybrid format meets at the church and Zoom.
* **Mondays @ 7pm** (Co-ed Led by Terry Parker) Meets via Zoom
* **Tuesdays @ 6:30pm** (Co-ed Led by Pastor Checkerz) Meets via Zoom and Every 3rd Sunday of the month - meet for a Potluck style meal at the church.
* **Thursdays @ 6:30pm** (Co-ed led by Carmen Goree) Zoom
* **Thursdays @ 6:30pm** (Co-ed Young Adults Led by Josh Kern) Meets at Josh’s home.

**\*\*Some Connect Groups are currently meeting via Zoom meetings. Please contact us to get a link for the group you would like to join and we will get you connected.\*\***

**www.renewchurchonline.org**

**Church Offices: 225-272-3740**