Sunday, October 25, 2026

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

Righteousness

Read/Reflect

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20. Why do you think people often view God's law as either something to strictly enforce or something completely irrelevant to New Testament faith?

2. What does it mean that Jesus came to "fulfill" the law rather than abolish it? Is this fulfillment what the prophet is talking about in Jeremiah 31:31-34? Or what Paul is talking about in Romans 8:1-17?

3. Given how dedicated the Pharisees were to moral discipline and scriptural knowledge, why do you think Jesus' statement about "surpassing righteousness" was so shocking to His listeners?

Explore

4. When have you seen a purely rule-based approach to faith lead to harm or judgment within a church community?

5. Consider the quote: *"You can know the Book... You can do the Book... But without grace, there is not much life, beauty, or goodness in it."* Where in your life are you in danger of relying on performance rather than grace?

6. How can doing the right things or having the right answers become a cover-up for an unloving heart? How might using those things as "badges of identity" create barriers that keep others from feeling included in God's family?

7. One theologian (N.T. Wright) argues that grace shifts the question from *"How do I qualify as good?"* to *"Who belongs to God's renewed family through Jesus?"* How could this shift change the way we welcome, listen to, and love those who look or think differently from us?

Pray

- Give thanks that Jesus has fulfilled what we could never accomplish on our own.

- Ask God to show us where we have chosen self-righteousness, legalism, or pride over love and grace.