

# Matthew Week 27: Gospel-less Religion

## Scripture Memory of the Month

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

- Matthew 28:19-20

## 1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

*This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)*

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

## 2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

*As family in Christ we are called to confess our sins to one another and carry each others' burdens. We want to remind each other of the gospel. We want to give each other the opportunity to repent and believe the gospel. (Mark 2:17, 1 John 1:8-9)*

Break up into guys and girls for the discussion tonight.

*Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).*

### Read Matthew 15:1-20

What stands out?

Jesus talks about things that make us unclean. These are things that come from the heart. (*Remember Jesus' words in the sermon on the mount. We can sin in our heart without physically committing the act. - Matthew 5*) In this passage Jesus mentions things like evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander, etc. Where are you currently struggling in these areas? What areas of your life reveal where you have not believed or applied the gospel?

How do you use religion to make yourself feel better about your struggles in remaining faithful to Christ? This can be resting in things like regularly reading your Bible or attending group and gatherings. What is your gauge for you to know you are "one of the good ones"? What is your checklist to ensure you're on the right track?

*Remember, the gospel tells us that we are justified in Christ; by his sacrifice on the cross and not what we do. When we believe in Christ's sacrifice for our justification, we are given the righteousness of Jesus and now have perfect standing with God. This causes us to remain faithful to Christ out of love, not obligation. We should seek to live obedient lives out of our gratitude for what Christ has done. (Romans 3:20-26, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:4-10)*

How can you be more intentional about trusting in the gospel instead of religion?

### **3) REVIEW THE MISSION**

*Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

#### **People:**

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

#### **Plan:**

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

#### **Pray:**

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.