

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

March 17, 2019 sermon:

Hebrews: Jesus is Greater "On earth as it is in heaven"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

- 1.) Some people love the past...the old ways and the old things. They may even resist or resent the modern innovations. How are you wired? Do you prefer the old ways or do you embrace new ways and modern technology? What might be the upsides and downsides of being too extreme in either direction?
- 2.) We've been talking about the Old Testament law and priesthood being temporary and incomplete systems. Does it bother you to think about the way things are done in the life being "adaptable and changeable" as long as the message about Jesus and salvation through him is constant?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. The purpose of the 10 Commandments (Deuteronomy 5) has been misunderstood over time and this misunderstanding has been passed on in churches and homes. Some think, "If I keep these 10 rules, I'm good with God!", but as we grow more in our understanding of God's word, we see that these commands are to be lived out in a way that changes our priorities and relationships. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 24-25. How does this help us better understand how to apply and live out these principles?
2. The Pharisees were the most religious people of their time and serve as a great example of having faith but not necessarily a "saving faith." SLOWLY read Matthew 23:1-30. (Sorry...a lot of verses) Their attitudes were: 1.) If I keep the Law with visible rituals, what goes on inside of me is my business. True or false? 2.) If the Law is "good", then adding more layers and restrictions to it is even "better". True or false? 3.) How does Jesus' response to the Pharisees show that we can have lots of religious habits, but miss the mark on having a saving faith?
3. Read John 15:13-17. Jesus makes this all about relationship, not merely following a set of rules or regulations. These verses are filled with encouragements and motivations. Point out the ones that jump out at you.

Application: (5-10 minutes) The culture around us and the world are rapidly changing, and mostly in a negative direction. This requires the church to change! Change, if it is to align more closely with the heart and mission of Jesus, is not compromise. How can OUR church be more effective in reaching the people around us with the great news that God loves them and Jesus came to give them real life? (If you have specific ideas, your staff would LOVE to hear them!)