

## Kingdom – Two Kinds of “Right”

Weekend Discussion Questions

May 9-10, 2015

### Community:

1. Jim explained the kingdom of God as *“a network of relationships that live interactively and touch one another”*. Looking at your life, what does that *“network”* look like, and are there some things you need to change?
2. Jesus said the kingdom of God is near. Are there some areas in your life that you need to rethink or repent of? What is getting in the way of setting things right?

### Core:

1. **Read Matthew 5:17.** Why do you think Jesus felt the need to say this at the beginning of His talk? Who do you think was most offended by Jesus’ words here?
2. Jim defined “religion” as a way of *“living your life the ‘right’ way now and maybe, someday, you can possibly be with God.”* Have you experienced this way of connecting with God? If so, what affect did it have on you, on those you love, and your relationship with God?
3. **Read Matthew 5:20.** How would you describe “righteousness”? Where do you see the spirit of the *Pharisees and Teachers of the Law* in church today?
4. Jim pointed out that the *“righteousness of religion”* has certain tendencies. Where have you experienced some of the following...?
  - a. Religion...seeking the honor of men, not God?
  - b. Religion...bringing bondage to appearance, opinions and self-justification?
  - c. Religion...saying one thing, but does another?
  - d. Religion...murdering for a good cause?
  - e. Religion...working to keep people OUT of the kingdom, instead of bringing them IN?
  - f. Religion...that is covetous and wealth seeking?
  - g. Religion...that defines righteousness by externals, but ignores the heart?
5. Jesus came along and showed us a different way, a way of life that says, *“Live your life interactively with God right now and, with God in you and around you, it actually becomes possible to begin to live the right way.* Have you experienced this way of life with God? What gets in the way of living life more like this, than the *righteousness of religion?*

### Challenge:

Spend some time every day this week thinking about (and praying for) areas in your life that you need to align closer to the kingdom of God. Ask God for His help in living out life in His kingdom...out of a desire to experience His nearness, not out of the *righteousness of religion*.

