

TAKEAWAY

THE RADICAL KING

FORMED BY JESUS

SUNDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday we looked at Matthew 15:1-20. In this passage, Jesus speaks strongly against the teaching of the Pharisees. The underlying, and serious, idea is that they've got God wrong. They have come to believe that following God is something that can be done through rules, regulations and behaviour management. Jesus challenges this strongly.

DISCUSS

How do you think you have changed in the last 10 years?

What has caused that change?
How was God at work?

READ

Matthew 15:1-6

CONTEXT

Note: The Pharisees had, over centuries, added many laws and instructions to the teaching of the Old Testament. By the time of Jesus, they emphasised their additions more than the Bible itself. They were also very good at wriggling out of following God's commands. For example, they would ignore the responsibility to care for ageing parents by saying they had set aside money for 'spiritual' purposes.

DISCUSS

What things have you been told - or believed - about God that you later found weren't true?

Why do the things we believe about God matter so much?

READ

Matthew 15:7-14

DISCUSS

Who are the supposed 'guides' in our culture? Why do people listen to them?

What would it look like for Jesus to have greater influence as the guide in your own life?

READ

Matthew 15:15-20

CONTEXT

Note: In Jewish thinking the 'heart' is not just the blood pump of the body; it symbolises the person's innermost will and desires. Jesus is saying that sin is deeper than we know - it is not just external behaviours, our hearts are 'factories' of the kind of evils Jesus describes.

DISCUSS

How would you explain what Jesus says here in your own words?

How is His view of sin different from that of the Pharisees?

What is one way in which you'd love to be more like Jesus ten years from now? How will that happen?

