Sunday Into Monday

A five day devotional every week.

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Kingdom Come // A Different Kind of Righteousness (Part 2)
Matthew 5:27–37

Day 1: The Heart Behind the Law | *Reading: Matthew 5:17-20; Ezekiel 36:26-27*

It is easy to measure righteousness by what others can see. We check the outer ring, our behavior, our reputation, our public record, and if it looks clean, we assume we are fine. But Jesus has always been after something deeper. In Ezekiel 36, God promises not just better behavior but an entirely new heart. The law was never meant to be a checklist to manage from the outside in. It was meant to reveal the condition of what is already inside. Today, resist the temptation to read Scripture as a report card. Instead, ask honestly: where is God's word true of me, and where am I still keeping my finger one inch from my sister's face? **Choose one area of your life where you know the right behavior but sense that your heart has not fully surrendered. Write it down. Pray over it specifically, asking God to replace the heart of stone with a heart of flesh.**

Day 2: Faithful Eyes in an Unfaithful World | *Reading: Matthew 5:27-30; Job 31:1; Psalm 101:3*

Long before smartphones existed, the human heart was already prone to look where it should not. Jesus addresses lust not to shame us but to protect us and, remarkably, to protect others. In Matthew 5, when Jesus says "if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out," he is not asking for self-harm. He is asking for radical honesty about what we allow to feed our hearts. Job made a covenant with his eyes. The psalmist resolved to set no worthless thing before his gaze. Both understood what Jesus confirmed: faithfulness does not begin with a vow spoken aloud. It begins with what we choose to look at when no one else is watching. **Conduct an honest audit of your digital habits this week. Identify one specific pattern an app, a late-night scroll, a tab you keep reopening and take one concrete step to remove or limit it. Share that step with a trusted friend.**

Day 3: Day 3: Covenant, Not Contract | *Reading: Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:25-27*

Our culture treats marriage as a contract built around personal fulfillment. When the terms no longer serve us, we look for an exit. But Jesus calls marriage a covenant, a binding, self-giving promise modeled after his own relationship with his people. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes Christ as the faithful bridegroom who gave everything for the church without looking for a loophole. This does not mean that every broken marriage is a moral failure of equal weight, or that those who have survived divorce carry permanent shame. Jesus, in Matthew 5, is defending the vulnerable, not condemning the wounded. His words are a wall of protection, not a weapon of condemnation. **If you are married, write down one specific way you can move toward your spouse this week that costs you something. Your time, your pride, your comfort. If you are single, identify one relationship in your life where you can practice covenant-level faithfulness.**

Day 4: Let Your Yes Be Yes | *Reading: Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12; Proverbs 12:17-19*

In a world where words are cheap, where social media lets us curate a version of ourselves that hides our inconsistencies, Jesus calls his followers to something radically simple: mean what you say. The people of Jesus' day had developed an elaborate ranking system for oaths. Some counted, some did not. We do the same thing. We are reliable in public and unreliable in private. We commit and then quietly revise the terms. Jesus says heaven, earth, Jerusalem, and even the hair on your own head all belong to God. There is no corner of your life where your words do not matter. A divided self, saying one thing and doing another, is the opposite of the integrated, whole-hearted life Jesus invites us into. **Identify one commitment you have made to God, to a family member, to a friend, or to yourself that you have not fully honored. Take one step today to either fulfill it or have an honest conversation about it.**

Day 5: The Faithful One Who Makes Us Faithful | *Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:13; Lamentations 3:22-23*

After four days of honest reckoning with our eyes, our vows, and our words, we arrive at the only place that makes any of this sustainable: the faithfulness of Jesus himself. Every promise of God finds its yes in Christ. Even when we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, because faithfulness is not something he does, it is who he is. We do not become faithful in order to earn his love. We become faithful because he loved us first, and that love, received deeply and regularly, transforms us from the inside out. The goal of the Sermon on the Mount is not a better-behaved you. It is a you who has been so captured by the beauty and faithfulness of Jesus that you begin, slowly and imperfectly, to look like him. **Spend ten minutes today not asking God for anything, but simply reflecting on his faithfulness to you in the past week, the past year, and across your entire life. Let that reflection be the foundation from which you move forward into a different kind of righteousness.**