Share your answer to the following questions: Have you ever read the entire book of Matthew before or is this your first time? What is one thing that either you learned from reading Matthew, you’d like to know more about or that really grabbed your heart? Have someone at your table pray after everyone has shared.

Matthew 22:34-40

The Greek word “hang” or “depend” in verse 40 is:
kremannymi (cray-mahn-oh-me)
  a. to hang up
  b. to be suspended, to hang
     a. used of one hanging on a cross
     b. used of the aw and the Prophets, they are summed up or hanging on two precepts

This same word is used in Luke 23:39.

When we try to separate love and the law we end up with extremes like legalism which is too much law and _________________________________. God created love and the law to be in perfect balance. The Pharisees landed on the legalism extreme because they missed the love, ________________________________ in all things that Jesus emphasized.

In Matthew 23, Jesus is speaking __________ His followers __________________________ the Pharisees with righteous anger, and with love.

Righteous anger is different from man’s anger. Man’s anger is often an emotional outburst, it can linger and lead to bitterness, and has a long memory to hold a grudge. Righteous anger is like a flash of holy light. Jesus hasn’t been storing up anger against the Pharisees, he hasn’t been counting the number of times they wandered and sinned, and His anger will not remain or be held against them in the future.
Matthew 23:25-26 (TLB) “Woe to you, Pharisees, and you religious leaders—hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed. Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup, and then the whole cup will be clean.”

Hypocrite: a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion; a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings

Genesis 1:26-28

God gives man 2 things:
1. __________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________

What is our identity? _________________________________________
What is our job? ______________________________________________
Which is attributed to man first? ________________________________

Sin entered the garden and flipped the mirror.

Genesis 3:1-7

“Sanctification is what happens when the words of Jesus are being obeyed.” – John Piper

- 1 Corinthians 6:11
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- 1 Peter 1:2

To sanctify something is to “set it aside for the use intended by its designer”.

To take your dirty cup, full of sin and all that you do that falls short of God’s glory, to the foot of the cross and dump it out in the light of His love and grace, is the act of a disciple. It is there that you are sanctified, set aside for the purposes that God has intended for you and able to see a Savior who died to set you free from what’s in the cup. There you find significance in His love and His law for your life.
Heart-to-Heart

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Further Study:

1. Read Mark chapters 1-4

2. Read and meditate on the Eight Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-10 that were in Jesus’ first sermon, The Sermon on the Mount. Journal about the one that resonates most with you.

3. Do the same for the Eight Woes in Matthew 23:13-29 that Jesus teaches on in his last sermon. Choose one that most convicts you of your own heart attitude and journal about it.
Further Study:


2. Read Exodus 9-12; circle or list every time you read about Pharaoh’s hard heart.

3. Make a list of what you need for your God assignment; peace, comfort, love, help, wisdom, etc. Now write “I AM” in front of each one and begin to pray and declare those things statements believing that God will be those things to you.

4. Re-read Exodus 3 and then read the following out loud. Journal about what the Lord