



TALK ABOUT IT

1. Generally, would you say that you are a “good person”? Why or why not?

READ ABOUT IT: Philippians 4:8; 2 Corinthians 10:5;
Matthew 5:18-20, 9:9-13; Romans 5:7-8, Matthew 5:18-20

THINK ABOUT IT

2. **Read Philippians 4:8.** Looking at this verse, what are some things that fit these characteristics?
3. **Read Matthew 9:9-13.** What is surprising about Jesus’ choosing of Matthew? What is the irony in Jesus’ response to the Pharisees’ criticism?
4. **Read Romans 5:7-8.** What is so amazing about what Jesus has done for us?

DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

5. **Read Matthew 5:18-20.** What is the place of “God’s law” in the life of a Christian? Who will be called great in God’s kingdom? Who will be called least? What kind of “righteousness” is Jesus talking about? How is it better that the righteousness practiced by the Pharisees?

Philippians 4:8

⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” ¹²When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” ¹³Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Romans 5:7-8

⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Matthew 5:18-20

¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹ So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰ “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven