



PART 4: NEW WORLD ORDER

INTRODUCTION

If you aren't religious or you gave up religion, you probably had good reason to walk away or stay away. You're a reasonable person, and there are plenty of good reasons to reject religion. But reconsider Jesus. He wasn't an extension of the old religion. He came to introduce something brand new.

NINETY EXTRA

Did you check out this week's audio journey? If so, here are some icebreakers related to what you heard and watched:

1. The word "obey" tends to have a negative connotation. What are some reasons we resist that word?
2. Did you watch the *David's Story* video? If so, what was your reaction to it?

To join us on this journey through the life of Jesus, visit go.today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you felt like your reason was in conflict with religion. How did you respond?
2. Read Matthew 5:3-12 aloud together. In what ways do these verses challenge our cultural values? Do you find Jesus' statements challenging or comforting? Why?
3. Read Matthew 5:13-16 aloud together. Is it difficult for you to believe that how you follow Jesus might have an eternal impact on the lives of others? Why or why not? If you took these verses to heart, how might it change your perspective and decision-making?
4. During the message, Andy said, "Jesus was a hinge, born under God's covenant with Israel to fulfill it, end it, and replace it.." Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. What group of people is it tempting for you to exclude from Jesus' invitation to follow? What is one thing you can do to begin to see that group the way God does?
6. Is your faith motivated by Old Testament rule-keeping or a personal relationship with God based on following Jesus? What would it look like for you to trust that God loves you as your heavenly Father? In what ways might it set you free?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus came to fulfill the old and introduce new. The Old Covenant was a divinely created and scripted cocoon from which God's love was revealed to the world. That was the purpose of God's relationship with Israel. The New Covenant is the full expression of that love for the *entire* world. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Follow him. That's the purpose of God's relationship with *you*.

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Matthew 5.