

Am I on the **right path**?

- Better question than “*How are things going?*”
- Better question than “*What’s going on?*”

Direction, not **intention**, determines **destination**.

- *Meant to be* → Kingdom person
 - *Meant to be* → A God is FOR me person
 - *Meant to be* → A God is WITH me person

The **moral law**—properly received and understood—is NOT an **entrance** requirement to the Kingdom ... but is the **path** of the Kingdom.

Our **response** to the moral law is **reflection** of our direction.

Psalm 119:59

I thought about my ways and **turned my steps** back to Your **decrees**.

Matthew 4:17

... Jesus began to preach, “**Repent**, because the **kingdom of heaven** has come near.”

Matthew 5:21-37

“**You have heard that it was said** to our ancestors, *Do not murder*, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² **But I tell you**, everyone who is **angry** with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister will be subject to the court. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you’re on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “**You have heard that it was said**, *Do not commit adultery*. ²⁸ **But I tell you**, everyone who looks at a woman **lustfully** has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ “**It was also said**, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce*. ³² **But I tell you**, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual

immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again, **you have heard that it was said to our ancestors**, *You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord.* ³⁴ **But I tell you**, don’t take an **oath** at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, because it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.

Jesus the great Teacher:

- **Uses some exaggeration**
- **Opposes how the law was being taught**
 - **Expounds & Expands**

Jesus—the great Law Giver and Law Keeper—is exposing our inner lawyer.

→ Look **good on the outside** but create **loopholes** on the inside

Us & Anger

→ Justify it based on the behavior of others.

Us & Marriage

→ **No fault divorce laws; irreconcilable differences**

Us & Lust

→ *How far is too far?*

Our **response** to the moral law is **reflection** of our direction.

1) Recognize the scope of Jesus’ **authority**

→ If Jesus says it → That settles it

a) What Jesus says/teaches is **true**

b) What Jesus says/teaches is **beautiful**

Psalms 119:72 (ESV)

The law of your mouth is **better to me** than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

→ **Jesus aims to extend His rule to the **depths** of **our heart**.**

2) Recognize the depth of Jesus’ touch → **penetrability / inner significance**

Deuteronomy 6:6

These **words** that I am giving you today are to be **in your heart**.

A.W. Tozer:

*One quality belonging to the Holy Spirit, of great interest and importance to every seeking heart, is **penetrability**. He can penetrate mind; He can penetrate ... the human spirit ... He can invade the human heart and make room for Himself without expelling anything essentially human. The integrity of the human personality remains unimpaired ... only moral evil is forced to withdraw.*

Psalms 119:97

How I **love** Your instruction! It is my **meditation** all day long.

Beware of **positioning your heart out of reach of His truth & teaching!**

- **Appearances**
- **Self-justification**
- **Insecurity about God**
- **Inconsistent engagement with the Word**
- **Insensitivity to the Holy Spirit**
 - **Spirit of Christ & Spirit of Truth**

The problem is not always that we do not believe IN Jesus and certain facts about Him; the problem is that there are areas of our lives **not under** His gracious authority and have **not been touched** by His grace & power.

3) Recognize the reality of His **presence.**

Psalms 119:57 (CSB)

The Lord is **my portion**; I have promised to **keep Your words**.

Kingdom living (here & now) is a **battle.**

On the outside: world & satan

On the inside: presence of sin (~flesh)

Presence defeats presence.

1 John 4:4

... the One who is in you is **greater than** the one who is in the world.

John 15:4, 7

Remain in Me, and I in you ... 7 If you remain in Me and **My words** remain in you ...

Psalm 119:11 (AMP)

Your **word** I have **treasured and stored** in my heart, That I may **not sin** against You.

The **path** is the moral law of God, but the **power** is His presence!

Our **response** to the moral law is **reflection** of our direction.

→ What **path** are you on?

→ Whose **voice** are you listening to?