



# Kingdom People

## Being Perfect

### Discussion

What is the difference between excellence and perfection?

**Encounter** – Read God’s Word so that He can speak to you—**Matthew 5:27-48**

**Explore** – God’s Word by asking questions of what you saw.

1)

Do businesses, teachers and students, leaders and laborers—and people in general—pursue and demand excellence or perfection? Why?

2)

Why does God require perfection (Matthew 5:48)? Why not excellence instead?

- What does perfection mean, and is it possible? And if you say it is not possible, why does God require perfection of Jesus’ followers?

3)

How do the contrasts of Jesus between “You have heard it was said . . . but I tell you” lead up to and explain the demand for perfection?

- How do these help explain “Be perfect”?
- Go deeper than murder, to anger (21-26)
- Deeper than adultery, to lust (27-30)
- Deeper than reasons for divorce (31-32)
- Deeper than oaths, to truthfulness (33-37)
- Deeper than justice, to sacrifice (38-42)
- Deeper than comfortable friendships, to life-changing love (43-47)

4) So what is Jesus telling us about the way Kingdom people are to live in this foreign land?

- How is this consistent with our passport—our proof of citizenship (3-12)?
- Is this what being salt and light mean? If so, what will happen if we live by this perfection? How will our lives, families, the people we “touch” be affected and influenced?

5) What does it mean if you are not perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect?

- Have you been excusing some of the things you do or don't do because you've substituted excellence for perfection?
- Do you need to change something in your life? What are you going to do?

---

**MEMORIZE** –Matthew 5:48

**PRAY** for each other to choose being perfect instead of excellence or “good enough”.