

Sermon on the Mount: Jesus' Challenge to Authentic Discipleship – Week Seven

Jesus Calls Us to a Different Kind of Righteousness

Matthew 5:17-20

Main idea: *Entrance* to the kingdom comes when disciples receive righteousness by faith. But *greatness* in the kingdom comes when disciples (already righteous by faith) passionately pattern their lives after God's word.

1. DESTINY – Our eternity demands a fundamentally different kind of righteousness. *Matthew 5:20*

- A. Statement – You can't *gain* heaven nor *experience* heaven through legalistic works-righteousness.
 - 1. This would have been a shocking statement. No one did it better than the Pharisees.
 - 2. This would have been a confusing statement. Many thought they'd get in automatically.
 - 3. This would have been a discouraging statement. Who then can measure up?
- B. Problem – The scribes and Pharisees operated with a *mis*application of the Old Covenant.
 - 1. First Century culture drove the Pharisees to become separatists. You can understand why.
 - 2. They identified 613 commandments (248 positive & 365 negative).
 - 3. But there is a problem with treating the law this way. <http://bible.org/seriespage/jeremiah-new-covenant>
 - 4. The law's purpose was to lead us to the Messiah. They used it for political purposes.
- C. Meaning – Jesus makes it clear that he's establishing a New Covenant, not a better Old Covenant.
 - 1. Jesus says this in Matthew 26:28.
 - 2. This new covenant is found in Jeremiah 31:31-31.
 - 3. Three facets of the NC – a) know God, b) sins forgiven, c) law written on our hearts.
- D. So what kind of righteousness is Jesus calling us to? *N.C. vs. misapplication of the O.C.*

2. 1ST WAY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS – Jesus produces righteousness in us by fulfilling the entire Old Testament. *Matthew 5:17-18*

- A. Negatively – Jesus didn't come to abolish the law, but this seems confusing even contradictory.
 - 1. Mark 7:19 seems to indicate that he abolished food laws.
 - 2. Hebrews 8:3; 10:1-8 seem to indicate that the sacrificial system was abolished.
- B. Positively – Jesus came to fulfill the law in the prophetic sense.
 - 1. The word fulfill can refer to the fulfillment of prophecy.
 - 2. Both the Law and the Prophets have a prophetic function. Matt. 11:12ff
 - 3. Therefore, Jesus fulfills the entire Old Testament: Law and Prophets.
 - 4. Jesus' fulfillment lasts through time, both the 1st century & until H.&E. pass away.
 - 5. Examples: Jesus fulfills sacrificial system, prophecies of prophets, and larger patterns.
 - 6. Bottom line: Why don't we still embrace the ceremonial laws of Judaism?
- C. Point – Jesus fulfilled the whole law for you. Trust him for *imputed* righteousness.
 - 1. The concept of imputation (2 Cor. 5:21). The reality of no condemnation (Rom. 8:1-4).
 - 2. There is practical righteousness (Romans 6:12-14).

3. 2ND WAY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS – Jesus produces righteousness in us as we pattern our lives after his word. *Matthew 5:[18]-19*

- A. The thrust of vs. 19 – It's not who is *in* or *out* of the kingdom, but *least* vs. *greatest*. 5:19
1. Two kinds of kingdom people, the least vs. the greatest.
 2. To annul makes you least; to “keep and teach” makes you greatest.
 3. What are we keeping and teaching? The Old Covenant fulfilled in the New!
 4. Bottom line – Disciples obey God's Word and minister God's word to others.
 5. Correlation – We see this in the Great Commission. 28:18-20
- B. The motivation in vs. 18 – We should pay attention to God's word because of the nature of it.
1. It is eternal.
 2. It is inspired in the very details of the text.
 3. It has the power to determine greatness.