

Words of the King: Matthew 5:17-20
Discussion Guide, November 1, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 5:21-30

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:14-16

- What opportunities did you have to live as salt and light this past week?

OPEN:

- What role does "rule following" play in the Christian life?

READ and ASK: Matthew 5:17-20, Phil 3:4-7, Romans 3:21-24

- How trustworthy are the words of Scripture?
- What rumor seems to have begun to spread about Jesus and his view of the Old Testament?
- What was Jesus' goal in relationship to the Old Testament?
 - o What does this mean (big question that has been discussed for years)?
- Who were the scribes and Pharisees?
 - o How righteous would they have appeared to the Jewish people of the first century?
 - o What do you think Jesus' listeners would have been thinking when they heard Jesus say that their righteousness must surpass that of the Jewish leaders?
 - o How can our righteousness surpass that of the Jewish leaders?
- If Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament, does that mean we don't have to follow any "rules?" Why or why not?

- How do Jesus' instructions in the sermon on the mount relate to the Old Testament?
- How does Jesus address the heart even more than he addresses outward actions?
- It has been said that practically that the law is like a flashlight, it reveals unrighteousness, while the gospel is a wrench, it is the solution to fix the problem.
 - How do you see that to be true biblically? How does this text speak to this?

APPLY:

- How do you need to regularly consult God's word this week?
- Daniel Doriani says "This true righteousness [that Jesus speaks of] shows itself when disciples do the right thing for the right reasons." How does that likely defer from the righteousness of the Jewish leaders?
 - What are the right reasons to live rightly?
 - NEXT STEP: What right things, do you need to do for the right reasons this week?

Memory Work:

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5:20