

The Sermons of Jesus

Lesson 2

The Righteousness of the Kingdom

1. What misconception did some people have about Jesus – revolutionary teaching (Matt 5:17)? What did Jesus mean by “the Law or the Prophets” (Exodus 20:3-17, Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 11:6-9)?
2. For us, “the Law and the Prophets” means the 10 commandments and future prophecy of the Messiah and His kingdom. Why don’t the sacrifices, the ritual, the priesthood, and the ceremony apply to us (Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:10-14)? Therefore, how did Jesus “fulfill” the Law (Romans 8:1-11)?
3. In Jesus’ day, the Jewish sect called Pharisees were the most strict keepers and interpreters of the law. They had perverted the law from something to keep because they were saved to the means of salvation itself. What outrageous and surprising comment did Jesus make in Matt 5:20? If the most fervent keepers of the law could not make it to the kingdom, then who could (Matt 19:25-26)?
4. Since God gave the 10 commandments, people have tried to keep them externally. Now in Matt 5:21-48, Jesus will clear up the misunderstanding. Where does sin actually originate (Matt 5:22, 28)? Was Jesus concerned with only external righteousness or inner righteousness as well (Matt 15:17-20)?
5. Jesus’ desired effect is to shatter the illusion of self righteousness. What part of man can only God see (1 Sam 16:7)? A more practical application for the common man is found in Matt 5:23-24. Does God expect you to clean up your life, repent from sin before you approach Him with offerings?

6. What strong hyperbolic language did Jesus use to reveal how dangerous sin is (Matt 5:29-30)? Jesus repeats many times the phrase “you have heard... but I say...” What does this tell you about the difference in inspired revelation from God, and the teaching of men like the Pharisees (John 1:17-18, Hebrews 1:1-3)?

7. What was their erroneous interpretation considering divorce (Matt 5:31-32)? What about oaths (5:33-37)?

8. One of the applications of human pride and vanity is to demand your rights, assert yourself, and do not be taken advantage of. What was Jesus’ consistent teaching (Matt 16:24; 20:16; Luke 22:24-27)? Nevertheless, the teaching of the 1st century Pharisees used the law to exact personal vengeance and rights. Did Jesus forbid personal retaliation (Matt 5:38-42)? What did Paul say in Romans 12:21?

9. What was Jesus’ sixth illustration in the contrast between the false righteousness of the Pharisees and the true righteousness of God (Matt 5:43-47)? In their tradition, the Pharisees quoted Lev 19:18 but omitted “as yourself”, also they altered the meaning of neighbors to exclude “sinners”, and they added “hate your enemy”. Who did the Pharisees criticize Jesus for associating with in Matt 9:11-13, John 7:49?

10. What was Jesus’ best illustration of loving your enemies (Luke 10:27-37)? Who was the greatest example of loving his enemies (Luke 23:33-34)? What is the requirement Jesus gave in Matt 5:48? How is this possible (2 Cor 5:21, Rom 3:21-22)?