**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— SESSION 4**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT  
Homework for Matthew 5:17-20 — Not To Destroy But To Fulfill   
SYS 10/23/24 EWH 10/30/24**

REVIEW   
The Beatitudes, taught in Matthew 5:3-12, describe the Christian's character or *who the Christian is*. These are not attributes of our natural personalities. Rather, the Beatitudes describe the transforming work of the Holy Spirit as the believer yields to Him. In the following section, Matthew 5:13-16 teaches *how the Christian should be*. Moving from character to function, we should now understand how the Christian's character will manifest itself in the world.  
  
READING Matthew 5:17-20.  
  
INTRODUCTION   
The body of Christ's sermon begins in Matthew 5:17 and proceeds into chapter 7. Though the transition from the introduction to the actual body seems abrupt, "...nevertheless, the discussion in the body of the sermon flows naturally out of the preceding material. Jesus closed the introduction by referring to good works that prompt others to glorify the heavenly Father. The body of the Sermon on the Mount then offers a detailed description of the righteous conduct and character that motivates others to praise God" *(Charles Quarles; Sermon on the Mount; pg 89).*

QUESTIONS

1. Carefully read Matthew 5:17-18. Remembering that the New Testament did not exist at the time of Christ's sermon, we understand *the Law and the Prophets* to refer to the Hebrew Scriptures or all of the Old Testament writings. In verse 17 Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to *abolish* the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to *abolish*... but to *fulfill* (LSB). Using the Blue Letter Bible, look up the meanings of "abolish" and "fulfill."

2. Look up the following references and explain in your own words how Jesus fulfilled the law. Use BLB to define words you don't understand.  
  
 a) Luke 24:44  
  
 b) Galatians 3:22-26  
  
 c) Galatians 4:4-5  
  
 d) 2 Corinthians 5:21  
  
 e) Romans 10:4

f) Colossians 2:13-14

3. Hebrews 10:5-18 is a beautiful passage delineating how Jesus fulfilled the law for us. Read it carefully then record what you learn.

4. Galatians 2:16 reads: "*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law, since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified*" (LSB). What is meant by this? Using BLB, what does the word *justified* mean?

5. Matthew 5:20 reads: *"For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses [that] of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."* Now read Luke 18:9-14 and then explain how the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector applies to what Jesus is teaching in Matthew 5:20.

What is the central difference between the righteousness of the Pharisee and the tax collector? How exactly did the Pharisee miss the mark? (Read 5:21-48 for a hint: "*You have heard it said... but I say...*").