

Applying God's Word

This Week's Passage: Matthew 5:17-20

Corresponding Sermon from King's Church: "What's Law Got To Do With It?"

Opening Discussion

1. Read this week's passage together.
2. Share *your* immediate observations from this text. Was there anything shared in Sunday's sermon that stuck out to *you*?
3. In what ways were you able to see *yourself* in the sermon and in the text?

Going Deeper

1. Matthew has repeatedly described the arrival of Jesus as the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promises. In our passage this week, Jesus uses the same idea to describe his mission. Discuss Jesus' role of fulfillment in these passages and then answer the following questions together: (**Jn. 1:45 & 5:39-40; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 8**)

A. How does Jesus fulfill God's story of redemption that began immediately after the fall and runs throughout the OT?

B. How does Jesus fulfill God's commandments & prophecies?

2. While Jesus, the Gospel writers, and the apostles speak of Jesus as the fulfillment of the OT, that doesn't mean the OT ceases to be God's authoritative Word. Jesus claims both are true. Think together about what this means for how we apply the OT to our lives today. *Keep in mind that we move first to Jesus as fulfillment and then ourselves for application:*

A. How do we apply OT sacrificial and purity laws in light of Jesus?

B. How do we apply the 10 commandments in light of Jesus?

3. Jesus concludes his argument by helping us to see that his relationship to the OT, and the new covenant it brings, is meant to produce obedience and righteousness from the heart in the lives of his people. (**vv. 19-20**). Discuss together how this internal heart righteousness looks different from the external righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? How are we sometimes more like Pharisees than Christ's disciples?

Prayer Points

1. Thank God that Christ has inaugurated a new covenant by fulfilling all that the old pointed toward and required.
2. Ask him to move you pursue righteousness in your life in obedience to his commands.