

THE SERMON ON THE  
**MOUNT**  
STUDY GUIDE

# Understanding the Bible

Matthew 5.17-20

## WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- Discuss your plans for winding down your group for the year (i.e. when is your last official meeting, will you meet over the summer for social outings/grill outs, etc.). Also note the various summer studies planned and encourage folks to pick one. You can find the list on The City, or via the homepage of the main website.

*Opener Question:* What are the main obstacles to you reading the Bible more regularly?

*We are in a series walking through the Sermon on the Mount. The first 4 chapters of Matthew are concerned with demonstrating that Jesus is the great King promised in the Old Testament (cf. Matthew 2:2). Whenever a king comes to power (or any leader comes to power), that power is always expressed in a new administration, a new set of values and principles. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus sets out the values of the new kingdom.*

## STUDY/DISCUSSION

*Read:* Matthew 5.17-20

### INVESTIGATE

1. Summarize what we learn about Jesus' view of the Old Testament in the following verses.

v.17

v.18

v.19

*NOTE: "The law" or "the law and the prophets" was a shorthand way of referring to all of the Old Testament Scriptures.*

2. What does it mean that Jesus has come to "fulfill" the law? How does this impact our understanding of the Old Testament?

## APPLY

3. Where are you tempted to “pick and choose” parts of the Bible to hold on to and set aside?
4. Focus again on verse 19. Jesus says the Bible is not just to be believed, but to be “done.” How can we make sure we are not confining the Bible to a set of worldview beliefs?
5. It is clear from this passage that Jesus has a very high view of the Scripture. Practically speaking, how can you make the Bible more central to your life?

## INVESTIGATE

6. How do you think Jesus’ view of righteousness differs from that of the Pharisees? (v.20)

*Theologians have generally seen Jesus fulfilling the OT in four ways:*

- *prophetically: he is the Messiah the OT writers prophesied*
- *ethically: Jesus is the True Israel, the only who obeys all that the law requires*
- *judicially: On the Cross, Jesus pays the punishment demanded by the law for sin*
- *Pedagogically: Jesus explains the Word of God as he teaches and through his very life is the living Word as he reveals God and his righteousness*

7. With this in mind, how does verse 17 help us make sense of verse 20?

## APPLY

8. On Sunday, Josh said that righteousness involves receiving a verdict on your life. In that sense it means “passing muster, being found acceptable.” In this sense, everyone is seeking righteousness. What are ways that you are tempted to “get this verdict” in your own life? (money, acclaim, success, love, lust, etc)
9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21. Where does our righteousness come from according to the gospel?

## **PRAYER**

### **Praise God...**

for the righteousness made available to us in Jesus Christ.

### **Confess to God...**

the ways in which we have sought righteousness elsewhere,  
and the times we have diminished or downplayed the significance of his Word to us

### **Ask God...**

to help you create space in your daily life to read the Bible and pray,  
and to remind you that your righteousness can be found in Christ alone.