

SERMON STUDY GUIDE



“Real Righteousness” - PREACHED ON APRIL 20 & 21, 2024

READ

Read Matthew 5:1-20. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day. (A great resource for looking at various translations is www.biblegateway.com.)

DISCUSS

What stood out to you as you continued to read last week’s passage? Where did you practice being the salt and light of the world? Did this week’s reading add anything to your understanding of your place in the kingdom?

STUDY

The Old Testament was divided into three parts: the law, the prophets, and the writings. Jesus came and fulfilled all of these types. The scribes and pharisees of Jesus’s time calculated that the law contained 248 commandments and 365 prohibitions. How then did Christ fulfil the law? The Greek verb translated “to fulfil” (*plerosai*) means literally “to fill” and indicates that Christ’s sayings “were no repeal of the [law] but a drawing out and filling up of them.” Jesus came to explain the full truth behind the law and prophets with his teachings and messages—he restored their integrity. How then are modern Christians supposed to think of the law?

1. Why might some people have thought that Jesus came to abolish the law?
2. Read Genesis 3. What did God communicate to the first humans and what are the consequences for disobedience?
3. Now read Exodus 18:13-23 and 19:3-8. What is said here about God’s “decrees and instructions” (18:20 and 19:5)?
4. Look at Exodus 19 and 20. What are some of the commandments we are to keep?
5. How are we to fulfil the law? Read Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:27-28. How does the Spirit of God help to write the law onto our hearts? What do you think this means for a Christian?

PRACTICE

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the entire bible. All of its verses refer to God’s laws and the psalmist’s praise for them and desire to obey the law. Read the last section, Psalm 119:169-176 alongside your Matthew reading each day this week. Identify one place where you find it hard to obey Jesus’s laws and commandments. Spend this week praying and reflecting on it—why is that specific thing hard to obey? What do you learn about yourself when trying to obey it?