

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #15

1/14/20

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- **Matthew 5:19-20** *“whoever then relaxes one of the least of the commandments...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”*
  - Again, righteousness means observance of the Torah
  - Our modern image of a Pharisee is unfortunately influenced by select passages in the New Testament where Jesus chastises them as hypocrites
  - They, in fact, were members of a religious movement who believed that the prophetic promises of God had not as yet been fulfilled because the people of Israel were still living in sin

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- Since it was sin that came upon them that led to their situation, then the sin must be removed in order to bring about the restoration
- Thus, they were very keen on the perfect obedience to the Torah
- To become a Pharisee, one was required to take an oath to never break the Torah again
- That meant they were to keep all of the 613 laws perfectly
- Paul said that according to the law, when he was a Pharisee, he was righteous (he kept it perfectly)

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- What was a Scribe?
- He was a professional copyist (only about 1% of the population was literate)
- Yet, their entire religion was based on a written document (The Torah)
- Since the Scribes were the professional copyists father said that we could see them as ancient tape recorders
- If a person wanted to know what the law said, they asked a scribe
- Even the Pharisees asked them for the meaning of a text when in a debate

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- The reason the Scribes knew everything within the Torah was because they had memorized it and could recite it verbatim
- All day long they made copies of the law and therefore knew it better than the Pharisees
- Father said that a Pharisee could be seen as a theologian while the Scribe was an exegete
- Here, Jesus calls his listeners to attain **greater righteousness (obedience to the law) than the Scribes and Pharisees** or they will not enter into His kingdom!

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- Imagine how frustrated this made the Scribes and Pharisees in his audience
- How was that possible?
- Next, will see what He means \*

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- **Matthew 5:21-45** *“You have heard that it was said to men of old, you shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgement....do not refuse him who would borrow from you”*
  - *“Men of old” refers to Moses on Mt. Sinai*
  - *Jesus clarifies these teachings with definitive statements such as:*
    - *You cannot divorce your wife at all*
    - *Do not swear at all; just say yes or no*
  - Thus, we must look upon the teachings of Moses like training wheels on a bicycle as a means of stopping the escalation of violence
  - There were, however, principles behind them

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- They gave the people of Israel a minimal taste; a kind of reality of the word of God
- Now, Jesus is giving his followers the full message
- So when the Law says: “You shall not commit adultery,” what it really means is that you should not even “lust after a woman” (if you do not lust you will not commit adultery)
- When the Law says: “You shall not kill,” what it really means is “you shall not be angry” (if you are not angry, you will not kill)

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- This was meant to show the people how to fulfill the Law and the prophets
- This was how a righteous person could exceed the righteousness of the the Scribes and Pharisees
- “Sons of the father” is Semitic language meaning to be an “imitator of” someone \*

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- **Matthew 5:46** *“or if you love those who love you, what reward have you?... You must therefore be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect”*
  - Father suggested that these are the kind of sayings that would have gotten under the skin of the first century Jews
  - The idea that one must be perfect as their God was perfect came from the “Holiness Code” in Leviticus where it says: *“You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy”* (holy – to be set apart)
  - The Pharisees taught that by keeping the Law, the Jews would be distinct and set apart from those around them (the pagans)

# Matthew 5 (Cont)

- God was not only “holy,” He was also “perfect”
- Thus, Jesus was calling His disciples to obedience of the Law beyond that of the Scribes and Pharisees!
- He calls them to be “perfect” as God was perfect
- Therefore, according to Jesus, they were to also keep the principles of the Law and then they would fulfill the Law and the prophets
- We will now turn to **Matthew 6**

# The 10 Commandments

- I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother
- V. Thou shalt not kill**
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery**
- VII. Thou shalt not steal
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor**
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife**
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

# Matthew 6

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# Outline for Matthew 6-7

- **Matthew 6**
- Jesus continues with the “Sermon on the Mount” as He focuses on the principles behind the Law by providing a new way of looking at:
  - Almsgiving
  - Prayer
  - Fasting
  - Treasures
  - A Sound Eye
  - Serving Two Masters
  - Anxiety

# Matthew 6

- **Matthew 6:1-18** *“Beware of practicing your piety before men.... For your Father knows what you need before you ask him”*
  - Here, Jesus goes on to say many more things along this line as he fills out all the things that he has already talked about
  - He provides new guidance on “piety” to include
    - Almsgiving
    - Prayer
      - The perfect prayer – the “Our Father” (*“Pater Noster”*)
      - Two of the Synoptic Gospels present Jesus’ teaching on how to pray
    - Fasting
  - Think of Lent and Advent

# Matthew 6 (Cont)

- **Matthew 6:19-34** *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day”*
  - This is a continuation of Jesus’ teaching narrative which began with the beatitudes where he directs that we do not:
    - Seek earthly treasures
    - Live in the darkness
    - Serve two masters
    - Be anxious
  - The Sermon on the Mount will continue in **Matthew 7**