



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 16th March 2025



Matthew 5:17-20 Jesus and the Bible

Warm Up

Who likes following rules? Why? What is the purpose of rules? Who breaks rules if they disagree with them or it suits their own purposes? (Confession time!)

Background and context

This is a short but powerful passage that reveals to us three things. Firstly what Jesus thought of scripture (Old Testament), secondly what Jesus believed about Himself in relation to scripture. Finally how important scripture is in leading us toward righteousness. When Jesus says He has come to fulfil The Law, He means He is the one to whom it all points and in whom it finds completion. Therefore faith in Him sets us free from fulfilling the requirements of The Law, and leads us to understanding how they apply to us today.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 5:17-20. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. What is your attitude to the Old Testament? Interesting, but of no value now? Or perhaps, useful in places but much of it is defunct?
2. In what way do you think Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament?
3. How did Jesus embody scripture? Look up the following verses. Would you react as Jesus did? Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 10:1-9, Luke 23:29-30,46, John 19:28
4. If Jesus has fulfilled The Law perfectly, and has completed everything necessary that the Old Testament promised and prophesied, what does that mean for us?
5. If Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, where can you see Him in Old Testament passages? (This will test your knowledge!)
6. **Read v 19.** As Christians, we are not under The Law. So what does Jesus want us to learn from the Old Testament?
7. **Read Romans 10:1-4.** How does Christian righteousness surpass that of the Pharisees?



Discipleship and Application

It is only when we see Jesus in the whole of scripture that we understand the Old Testament and a correct response to it.

8. How can you make your Bible reading (especially of the OT) more focussed on Jesus?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.