

***Dealing with the Real You***

**Matthew 5:17-20**

**Opening...**

- What is the strangest Old Testament law you have read?
- Pray for this time in God's Word— that we would hear from the text and from each other as the Holy Spirit guides us!

**Background...**

- **Mark 2:13-3:6** likely describes events which occurred before Jesus gave the sermon on the mount. What rumor was evidently circulating about Jesus' view of the Old Testament?

**Study...**

- **Read Matthew 5:17-20.** According to verse 17, what is Jesus' goal in regards to the Old Testament?
- In verse 18, when and how much of the Law will eventually be put aside? What is the "everything" that will be accomplished?
- What are the results of setting aside the Law vs. practicing and teaching the Law? (vs 19) What does this say about the authority and impact of the scriptures?
- In what ways are you sometimes tempted to "set aside" the words of the Bible and/or in what ways do you struggle to "practice" God's commands?
- Note how Jesus calls out those who teach in verse 19. How does your obedience/disobedience affect those around you and the choices they make?
- How could anybody's righteousness exceed that of the Pharisees and teachers or the law? (vs 20) Then who **CAN** enter the kingdom of heaven and how do they do it?
- How important do you think the scriptures were to Jesus? How important are they to you? Why?
- Spend time in prayer together.

**Matthew 5:17-20** (NIV)

*17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

*18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

*19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

*20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*