



## PART 2: SALT AND LIGHT

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 5:17-20**

#### Introduction:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us new habits of the heart. Just like any habit, they take practice and consistency.

This is a transitional passage that moves us into the practical teachings of the sermon.

#### 1. Jesus' Relationship to the Law

v. 17-18

There are 613 specific commandments in the Old Testament

##### i. His Authority

In the beatitudes Jesus spoke in the third person: "Blessed are *those* who...for *they* will..." From v. 11-16 he starts using the second person: "*You* are the salt of the earth..." Now he starts talking in the third person: "Truly *I* tell you..."

He is revealing himself as Law-giver. He has authority to give and reinterpret the Law.

##### ii. His Role

Jesus is the fulfiller of the Law.

[www.betheltab.ca](http://www.betheltab.ca)

The whole Old Testament points toward Jesus (Luke 24:25-27, John 5:39-40).

Romans 10:4

#### 2. What is Required of Us?

v. 20

Righteousness: Our relationship to the normal order. Our alignment with the Law.

Matthew 5:48

Jesus really is saying that our righteousness needs to surpass that of the Pharisees. And he really is expecting us to strive for perfection. But our notion of what righteousness is, and how it is accomplished, needs to change.

Jesus is talking about a deeper kind of righteousness. A righteousness of the heart.

#### 3. A Deeper Kind of Righteousness

God's promise to give us a new heart, and write the Law on our hearts was being fulfilled (Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 31:33)

"The command 'Be Perfect' is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command" ~C.S. Lewis

The heart is the seat of the mind, will and emotions.

The heart God gives us enables us to think like Jesus, be passionate about what Jesus is passionate about, and to feel like Jesus.

#### Conclusion:

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Righteousness is available through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-22, Romans 10:9-10)

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Warm up: Do you ever get stuck on auto-pilot when you drive and miss a turn? Or arrive home and forget how you got there? Do you have any funny habits? Maybe your spouse or good friend can answer this for you.

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20. There is more depth to this passage than could be explained in one Sunday Sermon. What questions or thoughts do you have about this passage? What is Jesus' saying & doing about the Law? What is he asking us to do? How would you define "righteousness"?
2. Read Romans 3:21-31. This is an important passage about righteousness in the new testament era. How is righteousness obtained? How did Jesus make it possible for us to obtain it? What does v. 22b mean? What does v. 31 mean? Do you think Paul is saying the same thing as Jesus in Matthew 5:17-19?
3. Read Hebrews 10:1-18. What is this passage saying about the Law? What is it saying about righteousness & faith? What was the problem with the Old Testament Sacrificial system? How did Jesus fill that part of the Law? How does that apply to our lives?

### Application:

1. How do we develop "habits of the heart"? What spiritual disciplines can you begin to do, or strengthen, that will help you exercise your new heart (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33).

### Prayer:

1. Pray that God would help you exercise your new heart, so that the new habits of the heart will become more natural.
2. Other requests
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