



Fairway Baptist Church

www.fairwaybaptist.com

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Matthew 5:17-20 – Part 2

Doing life in Christ one step at a time...together!

Both the character and the testimony of those in God's Kingdom flow from their **obedience** to the Law of God. We can't survive with a Christianity that is not **biblical**, without being absolutely committed to the absolute authority of the Word of God.

In verses 17-18, Jesus takes his position on the side of **verbal, inerrant** inspiration of the Word of God. (God inspired the very words, not just the ideas and what the men he used wrote is without error.)

Everything Jesus is saying about fulfilling the Law is emphasizing the **importance** of God's Word. Embracing Jesus cannot be done in your life without accepting the **authority** of his Word. (Matthew 24:35)

What does that mean for us?

Receive it as the Word of God

Honor it

Study it

Defend it

Proclaim it

"least" should be seen in an **objective** sense. If you break God's commandments, God is going to make you least in his Kingdom. You become a person he can't use, can't bless, can't reward. You can be in the Kingdom but totally **missing out** on the place of blessing, of fruitfulness, of usefulness, of reward.

Jesus knows we **want** to be great because he wired our hearts to want to be great in his Kingdom. He wired our hearts to be motivated by reward...because he wired our hearts in him so that we might understand that **satisfaction** comes in him – Jesus is our great reward.

Both the process and result of living in the beatitudes is that we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we purify our hearts, we act as peacemakers – we bring **God's truth** into every situation.

Both the process and result of being the salt of the earth and the light of the world is that we let the world see our **obedience** to the Law of God in such a way that they praise our Father in heaven.

When we hear Jesus in verse 19, we ought to be saying, "You know my heart, you wired my heart, when it comes to the Kingdom of heaven I don't want to be least, I want to be great – Jesus, I'm taking **your view** of the Word of God."

To remove the absolute character of the Bible, to say it has errors in it, to say it isn't authoritative, to say it needs to be reinterpreted to fit our sin or our culture is simply to drift with the world away from any **standard of righteousness**.

It is not enough to say "I hold to the scriptures;" I have to share it – I have to teach it – I have to give it to **others**. When we claim the Scripture is true but act as if we don't care if **others** believe that truth, we violate verse 19.

God's honor and his value rests only on people who **believe** his Word is true and **teach** others the same principle.

If Jesus is **Lord**, then we have to believe his Word is true and we have to teach it as such in all we say and in all we do.

Does your view of the Bible and the subsequent effect that view has on your life cause people to **believe** God's Word or to **disregard** it?