

**“The Heart of the Matter” Series (Sermon on the Mount)**

**“Become Greater” (Matthew 5:17-20)**

**Introduction:**

 **-Summary of what we have gone over so far in “The Heart of the Matter” Series (Sermon on the Mount).**

 **-Introduced the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-2)**

 **- “The Great Contradiction” (The Beatitudes) Parts 1 and 2 (Matthew 5:3-16)**

 **- Last Week “Being Salty and Shine.”**

 **-Jesus Declared we are the salt of the earth.**

 **-Jesus declared we are the light of the world.**

 **-1. The Church cannot be compromised.**

 **-We will lose our reputation**

 **-We will lose our Mission**

 **-2. We must witness.**

 **-People can see our good deeds.**

 **-People will praise our Father in Heaven.**

 **-Today we will look at becoming greater and what does this look like as we look at today’s passage.**

**I. Jesus came to fulfill the law (v. 17)**

 **-He fulfills the demands of the law.**

 **1. He lived a perfect life of obedience to the law.**

 **-Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are yet without sin.**

 **2. He took the law’s punishment for our sin.**

 **-Galatians 3:13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”**

 **-He fulfilled the Old Testament Prophecies**

 **-Luke 24:25-27, 44: And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, he explained to them the things concerning Himself in all scriptures… Now he said to them, “These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”**

 **- John 5:39-40: “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.**

 **-He revealed the meaning of the Law (“I tell you or You have Heard…”)**

 **-Rest of Matthew 5**

 **-Matthew 22:37-40: And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and foremost commandment.’ ‘The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor has yourself.’ ‘On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’”**

 **-Romans 13:9-10: For this “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

 **-The Law boils down to Loving God and Loving Others. Love!!!!**

**II. Jesus affirmed the continuing authority of the Law (vv. 18-19)**

 **-The Word of God stands forever.**

 **-Isaiah 40:8: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.**

 **-Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.**

 **-Every Part Matters.**

 **-2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

 **-Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

 **-We must practice and teach all of it**

 **-Matthew 28:20: teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

 **-John 14:15: “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

 **-Please Note: What about the civil and ceremonial laws in the Old Testament?**

 **-separated Israel from the nations around them**

 **-provided specific applications of Biblical Principles for the nation of Israel.**

 **-pointed to Christ and fulfilled in his death on the cross.**

**III. Jesus proclaimed the need for greater righteousness (v. 20)**

 **-The Righteousness of the Pharisees and Scribes/Teachers of the Law:**

 **1. was self-serving**

 **-Matthew 23:5-7: “But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries (boxes containing scriptures) and lengthen their tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in their synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.**

 **2. was partial**

 **-Matthew 23:23: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.**

 **3. was external.**

 **-Matthew 23:25-28: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisees first clean the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you like white-washed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but on the inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”**

 **-The greater righteousness that Jesus commanded.**

 **1. was testified by the law and prophets**

 **-Romans 3:21: “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and even the Prophets.**

 **2. is credited to us by faith in Christ**

 **-Philippians 3:9: and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through the faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.**

 **3. is worked in us by the Holy Spirit.**

 **-Romans 8:4: so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

 **4. is the only righteousness that will get you into heaven.**

**Conclusion:**

 **-Once again, we see Jesus getting to the Heart of the Matter**

 **-None of the 613 laws that were added to the Torah by the Scribes and Pharisees and over a period of time could never do what Jesus can do.**

 **-The Law cannot fix the heart. Only through Jesus who has fulfilled can fix your heart morning through the Holy Spirit.**

 **-None of our traditions or what we prefer will never be equal to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

 **-Religion is what the Scribes and Pharisees taught. Jesus taught grace, mercy and relationship(s) with him and others.**

 **-Does your righteousness surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees or is it dead like they were?**