

Sermon Title: Cleaning up some Misunderstandings

**v. 17** "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

Jesus is saying to the religious leaders and the people...Not one detail of the Law will be ignored...but I do need to correct your misunderstandings of the OT laws

### **Matthew 5:20-30 NIV**

#### **Teaching about anger**

You have heard it said...I tell you...

- You shall not murder-Judgment
- Look inward-5 Scenarios

Obedience to the law is no longer a merely a matter of outward conformity

### **Ephesians 4:26-27**

#### **Teaching about adultery**

- You shall not commit adultery
- Looking lustfully=sin in your heart

**1 Samuel 16:7** The Lord said to Samuel... "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Even things of great value should be given up if they cause you to sin.

**v. 20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law...

## **How can my righteousness exceed that of the Pharisees?**

### **What is righteousness?**

Righteousness is one of God's most prominent attributes, where in all cases God always acts in morally and ethically right ways. Because He is perfect and holy, He cannot act any other way.

The Pharisees and religious leaders were merely self-righteous

Human beings have no righteousness of their own. We are sinful by nature and there is nothing we can do to make ourselves righteous.

**Isaiah 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Our sin is exchanged for the righteousness of Christ. The righteousness of Christ must be imputed to us

### **Romans 4:3**

**Romans 10:10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **ESV**

### **One other benefit**

**Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

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Human beings have no righteousness of their own. We are sinful by nature and there is nothing we can do to make ourselves righteous.

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## Scripture passages to go up on the screen

**v. 17** “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

**Matthew 5:20-30 NIV** <sup>20</sup> 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.

## Murder

<sup>21</sup> “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup> “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

## Adultery

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If

your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

**1 Samuel 16:7** The Lord said to Samuel... “The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

**Ephesians 4:26-27** <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

**Isaiah 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Romans 4:3** What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

**Romans 10:10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **ESV**

**Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.