

# YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

## MATTHEW 5

Text: Matthew 5:20

### **Matthew 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Introduction:

Few passages in the Bible are more misunderstood and misapplied than the Sermon on the Mount. Often people will take a single verse or phrase and build an idea and disregard the entire context of the passage. It is important that we have a total and complete view of this important sermon.

The theme of this sermon is given to us by Christ in verses 17-20.

Matthew 5:17-20

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. [18] For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. [19] Whosoever therefore shall break

one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. [20] For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The theme of this sermon is true righteousness as opposed to the false righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees. It is important to remember that the people looked to the scribes and Pharisees as their models and teachers in the things of God. They set the rules and determined what was holy and unholy. One reason why the scribes and the Pharisees hated Jesus is because He exposed their shallowness and deceit in this sermon.

There sermon does not deal much with doctrine but rather more with the things that are to be done. It is these that Christ began with in His preaching for according to John 7:17

John 7:17

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

There are three basic purposes for Christ giving this sermon:

1. To reveal what true righteousness is.
2. To reveal the laws of the kingdom, the spiritual principles He uses to govern the lives of men.
3. To relate His message to the Old Testament law and the traditions of the scribes and the Pharisees.

Over the next several weeks Lord willing we will examine this sermon that the Lord preached. We will begin this evening by considering “Our Righteousness”

When considering our righteousness we must consider God. As I often state, “It all begins with God and it all ends with God.”

God is righteous. Whatever He does is right!

Psalm 116:5

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

Psalm 129:4

The Lord is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

Psalm 145:17

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Psalm 18:30

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Psalm 119:12

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Not only is God righteous, but He wants men and women to be righteous.

Psalm 7:11

God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

Psalm 11:7

For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Psalm 92:12

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Proverbs 10:30

The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

Proverbs 14:32

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Seeing and understanding this let's consider this evening "Our Righteousness."

## 1. THE PROBLEM WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS (VS 20)

The problem is that we have no righteousness. We are unrighteous!

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:10-12

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: [11] There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. [12] They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

## 2. THE PROVISION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 5:6-9

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For scarcely for a

righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. [8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

2 Cor. 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Once we have been declared righteous, God then

A. Expects us to live righteously.

1 Peter 1:15-17

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; [16] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. [17] And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Now if we did not have the power to live righteous before we came to Christ, we do not have the power in

our own strength to live righteously now. The good news is that Christ is providing power to live righteously.

Romans 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

We must not attempt to live this life in our own strength but rather in that which He provides.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

### **3. THE PRACTICE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (MATT 5:6)**

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

We need to have a continual appetite for righteousness.

Where do we go to satisfy this hunger?

#### **A. God's Word**

2 Tim. 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Jeremiah 15:16

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Many are literally starving because they do not read God's Word.

Close:

What are we hungering and thirsting after?