

A Christian's Righteousness: Jesus and the Law

WARM-UP

- Name your favorite teacher. Why was he or she your favorite?
- Is it easier for you to follow instructions step-by-step, or to figure things out as you go? Why do you think this is?
- Who is the most influential person you've met? How has he or she influenced you?

WORD

17"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." **MATTHEW 5:17-20**

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about how He is the only one who can perfectly fulfill the Law on our behalf, and therefore is the only way to God. No matter how many good works we do, we will always fall short of God's standard of holiness—and Jesus is the only one qualified to fulfill it. In this lesson, we will discover two important biblical truths on salvation.

1 We cannot become righteous on our own.

. . . as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one . . .”

ROMANS 3:10

We are separated from God because of sin. Despite any and all of our attempts at being “good,” “holy,” and “righteous,” we cannot mask the fact that we are sinful to the core.

The prophet Isaiah describes *righteous* deeds as *polluted garments* (Isaiah 64:6). Have you tried to get closer to God through works? What happened and why can it never work?

2 Jesus is our righteousness.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe . . . **ROMANS 3:21,22**

God sent Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, to cleanse us of our sin, enable us to receive forgiveness, and restore our relationship with the Father. Because of what He did for each of us on the cross, He bestowed His righteousness on us. When we believe in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, the Holy Spirit enables us to live holy lives daily. How has putting your faith in Jesus enabled you to live in freedom and righteousness?

APPLICATION

- Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Would you like to make that decision today? Beginning today, commit to follow Him and put your trust in Him, for the rest of your life.
- Do you believe that you are righteous in Christ? Are there any beliefs or mindsets that you need to overcome, in order to embrace this truth? How can you have a greater understanding of Christ's righteousness, and what He has done for you?
- Knowing that Jesus is your righteousness, how will you live this truth out every day?

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to die for your sins, and for granting you righteousness, once and for all.
- Pray that you would walk in Christ's righteousness daily. Declare the truth of His death and resurrection over your life.
- Ask God for opportunities to preach the gospel to your family, friends, classmates, and colleagues. Believe God for their salvation and changed lives.

NOTES



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