

Life Group Lesson - Week of 4/28

This lesson is based on Matthew 5:17-20

Highlight

One of the best ways to highlight Scripture is to look for repeated phrases or themes. When the author says something again and again, it clues the reader to what his primary theme might be.

- You will see several different words that refer to the Word of God. Highlight them. I (Jerry) see 4, maybe even 5.
- Another phrase occurs 3 times. Underline it.
- Now, put the two of these repeated words/phrases together. What do you think Jesus is saying about entry into the Kingdom of Heaven? What is required?

Explain

In this portion of our study, we're intending to figure out Matthew's meaning to his original audience, as well as those of us who read this today. **Remember, the Bible cannot mean what it never meant.**

- I want to introduce a new tool to you. Blue Letter Bible. It's my "go-to" for finding meanings of words. A significant word in this passage is "fulfill." Using this provided link look up the meaning of fulfill. (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4137/esv/mgnt/0-1/>) You'll notice a list of meanings, but it's the last meaning that sheds light on how important this word is.
- Based on the meaning of *fulfill* what was Jesus *not* saying about the law? What was Jesus *affirming* about the law?
- For the purposes of this study, we have asked everyone to list the 10 commandments. How do the first four commandments address our relationship with God? The next six our relationship with others?

Apply

This is now the portion of our study where the rubber meets the road.

- If, as Adrian succinctly stated, "We can't. Jesus can," which commandment do you struggle most with? Ask your group to share theirs? Provide a time for them to honestly assess their lives against the 10 commandments. This can be a powerful time of confession, of seeking God together.

Respond

- One of our 5 discipleship outcomes that we hope every believer will practice is: ***Looks in for a life that reflects the Spirit.*** Based on the commandment you struggle with most, this simple prayer can be powerful. “Jesus, you know me well enough to know I struggle to _____, and I know you well enough to know you are enough. This week, with these believers around me as witnesses, I will lean on you to do what I can’t do, and empower me to _____ by your grace.”