

**Study Guide**  
**Matthew 5:17-48**  
**The Kingdom Has Come!**

**Big Idea: Be perfect in Christ!**

1. Share a time when you felt discouraged that you fall short in an area, or a time when you looked down on someone else for falling short.
2. Read Matt. 5:17-20. How does this passage hit you? What do you think Christ meant when He said that He came to “fulfill” the laws?
3. Read Matt. 5:21-47. Discuss our tendency to go easy on sin, and how Jesus deepens each offense by going to the root.
  - a. Anger (v.21-26)
  - b. Lust (v.27-29)
  - c. Divorce (v.30-32)
  - d. Oaths (v.33-37)
  - e. Retaliation (v.38-42)
  - f. Love (v.43-47)
4. Think of hanging from a rope! If you break the rope at any point, you fall to your death. That is why Jesus concludes with, *“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (v.48).

**Conclusion**

Christ came to “fulfill” the law (v.17b). He filled up what was lacking. How does the imputed righteousness of Christ change us? How does it keep us from discouragement? How does it motivate us to try again? How does it keep us from judging others?

**Message Slides**

**Kingdom Declared****Big Idea: Be perfect in Christ!****A. Christ Upholds God’s Laws (v.17-20)**

“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. <sup>18</sup>For 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.

Luke 24:44

“Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Romans 7:7b

“Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin.”

Romans 7:10

“The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.”

Romans 7:24-8:1

“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord...

<sup>1</sup>There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

1 Cor. 1:30

“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

## **A. Christ Upholds God’s Laws (v.17-20)**

<sup>19</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

## **B. You say..., but I say...(v.21-48)**

### **1. Anger (v.21-26)**

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are

offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.'"

## **2. Lust (v.27-30)**

<sup>27</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.'"

## **3. Divorce (v.31-32)**

<sup>31</sup>"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'"

## **4. Oaths (v.33-37)**

<sup>33</sup>"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.'"

## **5. Retaliation (v.38-42)**

<sup>38</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup>And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic,

let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup>And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.'"

## **6. Love (v.43-47)**

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.<sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?"

### **Big Idea: Be perfect in Christ! (48)**

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

### **Prayer Time**

1. Share with God in what areas you feel discouraged and inadequate. Ask Him to help you not feel overwhelmed, but to give you wisdom for a next step.
2. Ask God to reveal to you a glimpse of how much He has done for you. Confess any spirit of criticism or judgment towards someone else.
3. Consider inviting some other people to pray with you about the hard things in your life. Ask God to guide you into what that might look like.