

Lesson 8

Back-Door Blessings | [Matthew 5:17-48](#)

START MEETING

- Read Matthew 5:19. What is the place of the 'Old Testament' in Christian discipleship? Are we really required to obey and teach every dot and stroke of the Law of Moses?
- Read Matthew 5:20. What is the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, and how are the disciples of Jesus to exceed it?

READ AND DISCUSS BIBLE

1. How do we reconcile Jesus' call for strict obedience to every stroke of the Law with the Reformation Principle of Justification by Faith apart from the Law?
2. Browse through Jesus' six amendments to the Law in Matthew 5:21-48. What do they all have in common? What is Jesus driving at? What do these amendments tell us about the kingdom of God?
3. In light of the six amendments, how would you define the higher righteousness of the kingdom of heaven?
4. Read Matthew 5:38-42. Taking a slap in the face, carrying luggage, and giving away your clothes and money are not inner life experiences. What does this tell you about the kind of righteousness Jesus requires of his disciples?

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

Jesus six 'amendments' to the Law in Matthew 5:21-48 showcase the higher righteousness of the kingdom as opposed to legalistic self-righteousness.

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

5. Disciples of the kingdom fulfil the Law by following (imitating) Christ. What does this mean? What are the qualities of a discipleship that fulfil the Law? Consider Matthew 5:21-48 with 28:19-20 and Romans 8:1-4.

CLOSE MEETING

1.

- Are the six amendments of the Law in Matthew 5:21-48 requirements for salvation? Or results of salvation? Or a bit of both? What do you think?
- What do getting angry and getting drunk have in common? Why is Jesus and the Bible generally so hard on human anger? What has helped you to control your anger?
- Taking Jesus' six amendments as a paradigm, please complete the following statements in the way that you think Jesus would.

You have heard that it was said, "Dress for success."

But I say unto you _____.

You have heard that it was said, "Time is money."

But I say unto you _____.

You have heard that it was said, "Save up for a rainy day."

But I say unto you _____.

You have heard that it was said, "Stand up for your rights."

But I say unto you _____.

You have heard that it was said, "Nobody's perfect."

But I say unto you _____.

You have heard that it was said, "_____."

But I say unto you _____.