

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

July 2013

## *The Sermon on the Mount*

### **Lesson #3: The Meaning of the Law**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

What is the closest you've come to getting in trouble with the law?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Matt 5:17 - 20

*Note: (vs. 17) As a theological term current in the 1st century, every rabbi's ambition was to "fulfill" the Law, in the sense of explaining its true meaning.<sup>1</sup> Lk 4: 21 Some say that Jesus "fulfilled" the Law by demonstrating what it looks like to live completely within God's will while on earth. The Jewish "Law" is the first five books of the Old Testament and the "Prophets" is the Major and Minor Prophets as well as the Historical books. "That law of God was composed of three parts: the moral, the judicial, and the ceremonial. The moral law was to regulate behavior for all men; the judicial law was for Israel's operation as a unique nation; and the ceremonial law was prescribed to structure Israel's worship of God. The moral law was based on the Ten Commandments, and the judicial and ceremonial laws were the subsequent legislation given to Moses."<sup>2</sup> Jews had 248 positive commands and 365 negative commands.*

1. What does Jesus think about the value of Old Testament? How permanent? Heb 4:12
2. What (& who) would Jesus say is the absolute basis for truth... real right and wrong? Ex 20:1
3. What was the purpose of the law? Rom 3:19-20; 7:7; 8:1
4. What is the relationship between law and grace? Rom 8:2-4; Gal 5:18
5. Why did the religious leaders have so many traditions (were legalistic)? Matt 15:6; Isa 29:13
6. How does Jesus describe religious leaders who not only teach what is right, but demonstrate it? Vv 19-20.  
*Note: Some commentators stress the idea of what men "call" other men (reputation). 1 Ths 2:10-12 Others say this refers to what God says about men.*
7. Why is God more concerned about inner thoughts and motives than outward actions?
8. What do you tell people that say that the Law must change with the times? Ps 102:25-26; Matt 24:35

#### **APPLICATION**

- How can you ensure that you fulfill the intent of the law rather than the letter of the law? 2 Tim 2:15

**Jesus' promise is not simply to great teachers such as Paul-or Augustine, Calvin, Luther, Wesley, or Spurgeon. His promise applies to every believer who teaches others to obey God's Word by faithfully, carefully, and lovingly living by and speaking of that Word. Every believer does not have the gift of teaching the deep doctrines of Scripture, but every believer is called and is able to teach the right attitude toward it.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Richards, L. O. (1991). *The Bible reader's companion* (electronic ed.) (606). Wheaton: Victor Books.

<sup>2,3</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary (255, 272). Chicago: Moody Press.