



# Bible Study Questions

8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Matthew 5:17-20

## Introduction

In this passage of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes some BIG claims that are both exhilarating and *exhausting!* What exhilarates you about your Christian faith and what exhausts you (be honest)?

## Read & Reflect

Read Matthew 5:17-20 at least twice using different versions of the Bibles. As you read or listen to the words, reflect and share on the following:

- What stands out or what do you notice?
- What questions are raised for you?
- What challenges you?

## Questions

- In verses 17 and 18 Jesus answers the Pharisees by claiming he **fulfils** the Law & Prophets (i.e. the whole Hebrew scriptures). **How does Jesus fulfil the following passages from the Old Testament?**

- Deuteronomy 30:6
- Isaiah 63:1-3
- Ezekiel 36:25-27
- Zechariah 12:10-13:1
- Jeremiah 31:31-33

- Jesus holds the Law (the *first five books of the bible including the 10 commandments*) in very high regard, yet also says he fulfils it. Use the below passages to discuss how Jesus **fulfilled** the Law:

- Romans 8:3
- Galatians 3:1-4
- Romans 13:8-10

- Even though Jesus has said he fulfils the Law, he then seems to make everything harder again by saying: *“<sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Later, in verse 48 he says a similar thing: *“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

**This feels like an impossibly high bar! Does Jesus want us to perfectly live out the Sermon on the Mount?**

For some helpful insight here, **READ** Dr Tim MacBride’s thoughts here:  
<https://timmacbride.com/2014/09/12/matt5/>

- Tim Keller often quoted the words of this hymn:

*“To see the law by Christ fulfilled  
and hear his pardoning voice,  
turns a slave into a child  
and duty into choice.”*

**Discuss this quote – what do you think it is saying?**

## Application

- How might you seek to live out the commands of Jesus this week (the Sermon on the Mount & Matthew 22:36-40) as a child who chooses rather than as a slave who obeys?

## Take the Sermon on the Mount into your week

- Use **Rich Villodas' Devotional study "THE NARROW PATH"** on the **YouVersion Bible app** & join fellow CBC'ers through the Sermon on the Mount!