

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Matthew 5:17-48

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Introduction

Blessed?

Narrative 1: Mt 3-4 The King's preparations and identity

Discourse 1: Mt 5-7 The King's Sermon

2 Keys (Matthew 5.17-20, 48)

1. **Jesus fulfils the Law and Prophets, not abolish them**
 - Romans 4; Exodus 19.5
 - Laws: doctrines, ceremonial rules, moral codes. The leasts and the greats
2. **Jesus demands a greater righteousness**
 - Righteousness: right relatedness that surpasses that of the Pharisees (v.20, 48).

6 Illustrations (Matthew 5.21-47)

“You have heard it said..., but I tell you...”

1. Murder (Unresolved anger). Unsettled anger and unreconciled relationships. Right-relatedness with people. Do we have unfinished business that needs to be settled with others?
2. Adultery (Opposite sex). Right-relatedness with the opposite sex. Hyperbole - overstatements to make a point. Do we take appropriate and decisive actions that will enable obedience?
3. Divorce (Spouse). Right-relatedness with our spouse. Do we consider the needs of our spouse more than that of our own?
4. Oaths (Speech). Right-relatedness with others in our speech. Do we guard our words and truthfulness?
5. Revenge (Our rights). Right-relatedness with those who harm us. Do we consider even the needs of those who harms us?
6. Enemies (Love). Right-relatedness with those who hate us. Are we able to love our enemies with the love of Christ?

Implications:

- From the INSIDE OUT, in every area of our lives.
- From the INSIDE OUT, through CHRIST (cf. Jer 31.33)

Reflection & Response

1. Do we live like Jesus who has fulfilled the law, that we are saved by grace alone?
2. Do we live with a greater and deeper righteousness that comes from Christ?
3. Do we live by the enabling and grace of the Holy Spirit?