PRACTICE AND TEACH GOD’S COMMANDS

Matthew 5:17–48

Key Verse: 5:19

1. How might some people misunderstand Jesus? (17) What was his true attitude toward Scripture? (18; 2Ti3:16) How did Jesus “fulfill” the Law and the Prophets?

2. Read verse 19a. What does it mean to “set aside” one of God’s commands? How does doing this influence others? What does Jesus say about such people?

3. Read verse 19b. How is this different from merely knowing God’s commands? (7:24) What does Jesus say about such people? What can we learn here about his hope for his disciples and for us? In what sense does our righteousness need to surpass the Pharisees and teachers of the law? (20; 23:3)

4. In verses 21–47, note the verses where Jesus begins, “You have heard it said…” What major Old Testament commandments does he cite? In each case, what new focus does he bring? How can we practice the real spirit of the law? (Ro7:6)

5. How does being angry with others break the commandment against murder? (21–26) How does looking at others lustfully break the commandment against adultery? (27–30) What did Jesus say about divorce? (31–32) About oaths? (33–37)

6. What did Jesus say about the Old Testament words, “Eye for eye and tooth for tooth”? (38–42) Why does he want us to do these things? What did he say about whom we should love? (43–44) How is this hard to do? Why does Jesus want us to do it? (45a,48)