

THE LAW SERMON ON THE MOUNT

WORSHIP

You may begin by reading Psalm 119:1-24, a set of verses celebrating the gift of God's law.

FELLOWSHIP

What are a few things you are looking forward to this summer?

DISCUSSION

1. How was Sunday's sermon encouraging to you?

2. Read Matthew 5:17-20

For context, "The Law" here is meant to refer to the Mosaic Law given by God to Moses at Sinai. It was a binding document laying out God's promises to His people, and their obligation to obey Him in return. It also served as the primary ethical guide for the nation; it taught them "righteousness." Therefore, it served as a theological and moral connecting point for God and His people. It is in the Law that God promises to be Israel's Provider and Protector accompanied by their promise to be His people, faithfully obeying Him in all sectors of life. The Prophets, by and large, reminded the people of God's faithfulness to His Law and condemned their unfaithfulness to that Law.

3. How does Jesus describe His relation to the Law?

4. If the Law was the document which bound God to His people and vice-versa, how does Jesus fulfill that role? Hint: Think about His person (fully God and fully Man) and think about His work -- Incarnation (God entering human history) and Priest (Humanity's priest by bearing our sins on the cross)

5. In what ways are we tempted to relax the commandments upon knowing how Jesus fulfills them? How can we combat that temptation?

6. Verse 20 is illuminated by the following section (v.21-30). After reading those verses, how must our righteousness surpass the teachers of the law?

7. How do these verses challenge you? How do they encourage you? Spend a minute or so reflecting as Mike told us to in an earlier sermon.

PRAYER

Share prayer requests as a group. If you desire, you may read this prayer:

God, if our relationship to you was dependent on our obedience, it would not last. So thank you, thank you for sending Jesus – the fulfillment of your promise to be God with us and the fulfillment of our requirement to be holy in your midst. He is your gift to us, fulfilling all that the law demands and atoning for all the ways we have fallen short. Help us, with His Spirit, to pursue greater righteousness than the Pharisees before us. God by Your Spirit change our hearts, that we may represent Christ to a world in desperate need of His grace. Amen.

