

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What does Jesus say about the law here and what does he say about his mission?
2. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What does Jesus say about murder and anger here? What does Jesus have to say about worship and anger here?
3. Read Matthew 5:27-30. How does Jesus define adultery in verse 28? What radical action does he call us to in light of the peril of lust?
4. Read Matthew 5:31-37. What does Jesus think of divorce and its outcomes? What is the one provision that he makes in these verses? What does Jesus think of making oaths and telling the truth from these verses?

B. Meditation & application

5. What do you think it means for Jesus to say that he came to fulfil the law? How do you think that this relate to the broader issue of “the law,” in the new testament?
6. How did the righteousness that Jesus required surpass that of the Pharisees here in four examples? And how generally, do you think Jesus’ vision of righteousness outstrips that of his contemporaries?
7. Which part of this sermon do you find the most challenging? What do you think you could implement from this sermon in your Christian discipleship that might aid you in becoming “more righteous?”
8. How does this part of the sermon on the mount speak to you and challenge you as you seek to follow Christ?

“Dear Heavenly Father; Thank you Jesus for fulfilling the law and the prophets and being the true Israel. We pray that the righteousness revealed in your Son might become a growing reality in our lives. Help us to live righteous and distinctive live that bring glory to Jesus. In Jesus Name- Amen.”