



## Follow

SERMON NOTES AND  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Matthew 5:17-20

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <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.”

### Outline

#### I. Introduction

- A story...
- Who am I?

#### II. How do we answer the question, “Who am I?”

a. The Outward Path

b. The Inward Path

c. The Upward Path

III. Recognize the decisive issue: "To whom do I belong?"

IV. How do I actually live the upward path?

a. Accepting the Claims of Jesus

i. He is the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets

ii. He is Trustworthy

V. Testimony: Gerry Wyatt

VI. Do I really want to take the upward path? Does it lead to the good life, or is it another form of oppression?

a. FOMD – Choosing your ladder

b. An identity that doesn't crush you...

c. An identity that doesn't exclude others...

VI. Seeing the Path

a. Gospel vs. Religion

b. Follow Jesus

# Discussion Questions

## Sharing Life Together

1. How would you describe your place in your family of origin? (Identity, role, what the family says about you, etc.?)
2. In one to two minutes, answer the question, "Who am I?"

## Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Henri Nouwen made the sober observation, "Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God." How are you experiencing that tension right now?
2. What are the strongest reasons you have for trusting in Jesus?
3. What are the biggest obstacles that get in the way of actually evidencing that trust by obeying His leadership over your life? How are you trying to get around those obstacles?
4. How would you explain to a non-believer that the Old Testament is a story looking forward to an ending? How does Jesus prove to be the fulfillment of the Old Testament story? (Might be a fun, group brainstorming question.)
5. Trust by definition excludes falsehood. This is escapable. But living by Truth of Jesus does not lead us to exclude people who are different from us. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? What happens if someone doesn't want to live according to the Truth?
6. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:31-32). How have you experienced the Truth of Jesus as a liberating power? Are there any areas where the "truth of Jesus" and obedience to his commands have been a crushing burden?
7. What are ways we can explain to unbelievers that obedience to Jesus is actually the path to real freedom?
8. How did God speak to you through this passage of the Sermon on the Mount and the message today?
9. How can we pray for one another?