



Living the Jesus Way

Session 9: Understanding the Old Testament

Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ “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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

Class Notes: Introduction: Expectations

1. Get to Know Jesus through the Old Testament
 - a. Understand the Basic Plot
 - b. Understand How Jesus Fulfills the Old Testament
 - c. Read to Understand Jesus
 - d. Read the Old Testament through Jesus
2. Enjoy the Promises
 - a. Jesus fulfills the promises
 - b. Over 300 prophecies about Jesus
 - c. Jesus fulfilled 29 prophecies on a single day
3. Commit yourself to Live according to God’s Word
 - a. Study Jesus’ teaching to learn what it means
 - b. Look at Jesus life to see how to live according to the truth
 - c. Live through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit
4. Conclusion

Discussion Questions

1. What is your view of the Old Testament and your experience of reading it?
2. What is Jesus' attitude to the Old Testament? Are we surprised by it? Does it challenge our own attitude?
3. How can we get to know the person of Jesus better through the Old Testament?
4. What does it mean to read the Old Testament 'through the lens of Jesus'?
5. Discuss some of God's promises in the Old Testament that you think Jesus fulfills. What difference does this make to your understanding of the Old Testament? Discuss the implications of 2 Corinthians 1:20.
6. In what ways does Jesus 'fulfill' Old Testament law? How do these apply to your life?