

Recap

- **Sermon on the Mount** – description of life in the Kingdom of God; expectations of the King
- **Beatitudes** – values of the Kingdom; identification of those who are favored under Jesus' rule/reign
- **Salt of the earth/light of the world** – role/responsibility as citizens of the Kingdom who live in a fallen world
 - **As salt** – slow corrosive effects of sin in our communities
 - **As light** – help people to see God more clearly

MATTHEW RECAP



The Law of the Kingdom

- Jesus –
 - **Didn't come to abolish** – put an end to; cause to no longer be in force
 - **But to fulfill** – to bring to its God ordained end/purpose
- Jesus' followers –
 - **Don't set aside/teach others to set aside** – treat as no longer applicable
 - **But practice/teach others to practice**
 - in a way that is more righteous than the obedience of the scribes and Pharisees

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Murder

- **Jesus' approach to the law**
 - **Lowers bar for sin** – from murder to anger
 - **Raises stakes for punishment** – from death penalty to hell
- **Jesus fulfills the law** – by moving towards God's desire which is creating a Kingdom of love; (we can not murder someone and still treat them contemptuously)

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Murder

- **Our righteousness exceeds that of scribes/Pharisees** – by seeking reconciliation with those we've wronged vs simply not killing those with whom we are angry
- **2 parables on reconciliation:**
 - **Importance/priority** – trumps worship/offering sacrifices to God
 - **Wisdom** – unreconciled relationships open us up to all kinds of trouble

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Adultery

- **Jesus' approach to the law –**
 - **Lowers bar for sin** – from adultery to looking lustfully
 - **Equates heart disposition with behavior** – looking lustfully has same effect on our hearts as committing adultery
- **Jesus fulfills the law** – by equating the activity of our hearts with our external behaviors Jesus moves us towards inward transformation which is God's desire

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Adultery

- **Our righteousness exceeds that of scribes/Pharisees** – by dealing with the issues in our lives that cause us to stumble vs simply constraining our behaviors
 - Deal radically with any thing in our lives that hinders our pursuit of Jesus
 - Key question – what causes you to stumble?

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Divorce

- **Background-**
 - **Deut 24.1-4:** If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce...
 - **Two schools of thought:**
 - Something indecent = adultery
 - Something indecent = anything a husband finds displeasing
- **Jesus' approach to the law** – puts in proper place as a concession to the hardness of human hearts

MATTHEW
5:17-32



Divorce

- **Jesus fulfills the law** – by putting it in its proper place: as a concession to the hardness of human hearts, not as a license for divorce for any reason as long as a certificate is given
- **Our righteousness exceeds that of Scribes/Pharisees** – by honoring intention of marriage vs divorcing ‘correctly’

MATTHEW
5:17-32

