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**Date:** December 5, 2021 **Series:** Jesus' Most Famous Sermon

**Message:** Rethinking Righteousness **Scripture:** Matthew 5:17-26

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*"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."* (Matthew 5:20)

**4 Questions:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ is ultimate (Matt. 23:1-4, 15, 23-24)
- \_\_\_\_\_ are everything (Matt. 23:5-7)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ is ultimate
- \_\_\_\_\_ is everything

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

- I trust that \_\_\_\_\_
- I trust that \_\_\_\_\_
- I trust that \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

Matthew 5:17-26

1. If you could choose one word to describe our culture today, what would it be? Why?
2. Why did Jesus take issue with the "righteousness" of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?
3. According to Jesus, what do our words or thoughts about someone reveal about our heart towards that individual or towards God?
4. In what ways have you witnessed or experienced destruction in a relationship, family, or church due to unrestrained anger?
5. Is Jesus teaching that anger and murder are equal sins? Why or why not?
6. What does this Scripture passage teach us about God's view of sin?
7. Why is "fulfill" the perfect word to describe Jesus' relation to the Law and the Prophets? In what ways does Jesus fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
8. How does this Scripture passage confront both our temptation to legalism (looking to something besides Jesus in order to be acceptable to God) or to licentiousness (the belief that, because we are saved by grace, it doesn't really matter how we live)?
9. How can we tell when we are pursuing an external, legalistic righteousness and when we are pursuing an internal, spiritual righteousness? What are some examples in your past of these two?