

## **What should we do with the Old Testament? Matthew 5:17-20**

### **What does Jesus do with the Old Testament? (5:17-18)**

He fulfills it — everything the Old Testament pointed towards is fulfilled in and by Jesus Christ.

He fulfills —

- Some commands by showing they have served their purpose and should no longer be followed.
- Some commands by saying they continue to express God's will for His people — and by dying on the Cross and bringing the power of His Spirit so we can obey them.
- Some prophecies by what He did in coming as Messiah 2,000 years ago.
- Some prophecies by what He is doing now and will do at the end of history.

### **So how should we view the Old Testament? (5:17-18)**

As a book whose every part will help us, strengthen us, have meaning for us.

### **So does this mean we should be like the Scribes and the Pharisees? (5:20)**

No. They aren't even IN the kingdom.

They had completely distorted the meaning of the Old Testament, ignoring its message of faith in God and turning it into a system of works.

To enter the kingdom we must be righteous — which happens as we come to Jesus poor in spirit, and trust Him to forgive us, change us, satisfy us.

### **What does this mean for us?**

Make the Old Testament a regular part of your Bible reading and meditation.



**SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012

## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Before studying this passage — how did you think Jesus' followers should deal with the Old Testament? How did this passage change your thinking?

Do you gravitate towards the Old Testament or the New in your Bible reading? Why is that?

Do you agree that every part of the Old Testament is important for us today? Why or why not?

When Jesus says entering the kingdom depends on being righteous — what does that mean? Why is that not earning our salvation by works?

What are some ways you be more devoted to the Old Testament? When can you start them?

What are you going to do differently because of these Scriptures?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



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