

# DNA DISCUSSION GUIDE

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES 2: THE WAY OF JESUS



### CHRIST CAME TO FULFILL THE LAW

Discussion Guide  
Matthew 5:17-20

#### INTRO

Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. The Law is the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy) and the Prophets are the rest of the Old Testament. The Law tells the story of God creating, calling and rescuing a people for his purposes on the earth. The Law also clarified how God's people were to live as a display people to the world, showing what God is like and calling people to Him. The Prophets reminded people of all God had done to make them His people and pointed forward to what he would do through His Messiah (Jesus) to bring about the fulfillment of his purposes and promises.

Jesus didn't only come to obey the laws, he came to fulfill all that God wanted his people to be and do so that all who put their faith in him might also be the people God intended them to be. Jesus came to continue God's saving, covenant work and to bring it to completion. He did that first by being and doing what all before him failed to be and do. Then he died to forgive us for falling short of being the people God created us to be. He rose again to defeat all that keeps us from living the lives God intends and then he sent his Spirit to fulfill what the prophet Ezekiel said would happen in Ezekiel 36:25-27 - **25** *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26* *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27* *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

**Jesus came to do what we can't so that in Jesus we can do what Jesus can.**

Jesus came to cleanse us from sin and make us clean. He gives us a new heart that both knows what God created us to do and also wants to do it. And he fills us with His Spirit to enable us to do what he recreated us in the first place to do. The fulfillment Jesus is referring to is not just that **he** lives a flourishing human life, but that through

Jesus, God saves a people to live flourishing lives for his glory and the good of the world. It was always in God's plan to have a called and chosen people who live as a display people to the world to show the world what God is like. And in Jesus, God is bringing this about.

This is what Jesus means when he says our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. He is referring to a whole-hearted righteousness that works from the heart outward.

## DISCUSS

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20; Matthew 23:27-28; Ezekiel 36:25-27
2. What are some of the ways Jesus fulfilled *The Law and the Prophets*?
3. What is the difference between external obedience and new heart obedience?
4. What must happen in order for us to have the kind of righteousness Jesus is describing?

## NURTURE

1. Have you received a new heart and spirit and, if so, what has changed as a result?
2. Where do you still need Jesus to help you live with whole-hearted righteousness - which areas of your life need the abiding presence and power of Jesus (See John 15:5)?
3. Take some time to bring those areas of your life before God in prayer inviting him to change you and empower you from the inside out.

## ACT

1. What steps is the Spirit of God leading you to take in light of our discussion?
2. How might we together walk out this greater righteousness in community - how might we together be the display people God desires?
3. Who in our lives needs to see and experience this greater righteousness and how might we together show and share it with them?