

TO FULFILL THE LAW—WITH LOVE

Matthew 5:17-48

Key Verse: 5:17

1. Read verses 17-20. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Bible? What two things must those do who know the Law (Bible)? How did the Pharisees fail? How can we be more righteous than they?
2. Skim over verses 17-48. How many times is the formula (or its equivalent) "You have heard that it was said...But I tell you" repeated? What is Jesus' word? (48) How did Jesus fulfill the Law? The Prophets?
3. Read verses 21-26. What does the sixth commandment prohibit? (Ex 20:13) What does it mean to be subject to judgment? In what ways does Jesus apply this commandment? Why is treating another person with contempt like murder? How must we deal with anger or misunderstandings with brothers and/or adversaries?
4. Read verses 27-30. What does the seventh commandment forbid? (Ex 20:14) How did Jesus apply this command? Why does he set such a high standard? What can we do? How serious did Jesus see this sin to be?
5. Read verses 31-32. What command of Moses do these verses address? (See Dt 24:1; Mal 2:15,16) Why does he make a concession? How is Jesus' teaching different from Moses' teaching? Why is breaking faith such a serious matter? How is this teaching connected with the seventh commandment?

6. Read verses 33-37. How is Jesus' teaching on oaths and swearing different from the Old Testament teaching? What is Jesus' principle? Read verses 38-42. (Ex 21:24) What does Jesus imply about vengeance? About justice? Why?

7. Read verses 43-48. In what way does the Old Testament saying encourage us to live naturally? How does Jesus challenge us to live by faith and overcome natural feelings? How must the Christian life be more radical than the lives of worldly people? What example does God set for us? What should be the goal for which we strive? What is love that it can be commanded?