

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of February 26th, 2006
Matthew 5:17-26; The Great Fulfiller

“The law that God had truly given to Israel was, until the coming of Messiah, the most precious possession of human beings on earth.” Dallas Willard – The Divine Conspiracy

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

This week’s small group materials take us to the next section on the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus, the one who transforms our lives, pronounces himself as the fulfillment of the law. Perhaps at first, we think, “no big deal.” But Jesus’ claim was more than a big deal. The religious leaders of his day would have considered his claim outlandish. What does Jesus mean when he says this? What implications does it have for our lives? The answer to both questions is, “More than we know.” Let’s find out.

On a final note, I have been getting the word out about our upcoming night for Home Group leaders. I hope you can join us Tuesday evening, February 28 at 7:00 pm. We’ll be meeting at FBC in the Fireside Room (7:00-8:30 p.m.).

Blessings to you and your group,

Scott

P.S. These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

In this week’s Scrolls, some silly laws are listed. Read the following to your group:

- *It is against the law for a monster to enter the corporate limits of Urbana, IL.*
- *In Gary, IN, persons are prohibited from attending a movie house or other theater and from riding a public streetcar within four hours of eating garlic.*
- *New Hampshire law forbids you to tap your feet, nod your head, or in any way keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant or cafe.*
- *In Bexley, OH, Ordinance number 223 of 09/09/19 prohibits the installation and usage of slot machines in outhouses.*
- *In Nicholas County, WV, no member of the clergy is allowed to tell jokes or humorous stories from the pulpit during a church service.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think of when you hear someone talk about “the law” found in the Old Testament?
2. Read the quote by Dallas Willard at the top of the page. How does that quote differ from what we often think about when we hear the Old Testament Law?
3. Read Psalm 19:7-11. Why did David have such a high regard for the law of the Lord?
4. What did Jesus mean when he claimed to be the fulfillment of the law?
5. In verse 19, Jesus indicates that our response to the law will impact our experience in heaven. What do you think about what he is saying here?
6. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were zealous about keeping the law’s commands (and then some). Yet Jesus said that our righteousness must surpass theirs. How can we harmonize this with his statement in Matthew 5:3, where he esteems the poor in spirit (those who admit to their spiritual emptiness and need)?
7. By fulfilling the law, Jesus brought out the original intent of God’s law. Instead of reducing the law to a list of rules and regulations, he showed how the law was designed to bring us into “right” relationship with God and people. As you look at verses 21-26 of Matthew 5, how does Jesus “fulfill” the sixth commandment of the Ten Commandments (“You shall not murder”).
8. Two principles that we find in this passage about anger are:
 - Will (decide) to reconcile.
 - Do it quickly (or as Paul would later say, “Don’t let the sun go down on your anger”).

How do these two principles help us to avoid the kind of long-term festering anger that destroys relationships?

Living it this Week – Is there someone you need to make things right with? Pair up, share with your partner, and pray for one another.