

REAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

July 13, 2014 Matthew 5:17-20 by Ben Skeat
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 8

Main Idea: What is real righteousness, and why does it matter?

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ 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 5:17-20**

Where you start from is REALLY important

All of this orbits around Jesus. God is bringing his kingdom and Jesus is announcing it. The future is breaking into the present. We are being invited in to God's kingdom, and it is found in Jesus.

Righteousness: Living in right relationship with God, flows out into living in right relationship with others and living in right relationship with creation.

God's law shows his people how to live in right relationship with him.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

1) Real righteousness cannot be _____

What the law was powerless to do... God did... (Rom. 8 1-4)

2) Real righteousness does not begin in our _____

... People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart... (1 Sam 16:7)

3) Real righteousness cannot be _____

... In him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit... (Eph. 2:22)

4) Real righteousness starts and ends in _____

Not earning: Jesus!

Not good behavior: Jesus!

Not asceticism: Jesus!

It's not a question of degree, it's a matter of direction