TABLE STUDY QUESTIONS | MATTHEW 5:17-20

1. **Introduce yourselves. Read Matthew 5:17-20.** Why is “fulfill” the perfect word to describe Jesus’ relation to the Law and the Prophets?

2. **Read Matthew 5:17.** Read these passages aloud and discuss how they help us understand what Jesus says in v. 17. It might be helpful to divide the passages up and have everyone read one verse and try to summarize it in their own words.
   a. Romans 3:31
   b. Romans 7:12
   c. Romans 10:4
   d. Romans 13:8
   e. Galatians 3:24

3. **Read Matthew 5:18.** What do all the verses below have in common with one another? How do they differ from verse 18? What does this say about the authority of Jesus? How would you respond to someone who claimed Jesus was only a prophet?
   a. Exodus 10:3
   b. Isaiah 43:1-3
   c. Isaiah 45:1-3
   d. Jeremiah 23:16-17
   e. Ezekiel 13:3
4. **Read Matthew 5:20.** Read these passages aloud and discuss how they help us understand what Jesus says in v. 20.
   
   a. Romans 10:3
   
   b. Philippians 3:9

   c. How would you respond to someone who claims that Jesus was a good teacher about how to live a righteous life but not really God?

5. **How does tonight’s text change the way you view the Old Testament?**
   
   a. What percentage of your time in the Bible comes from the Old Testament? (Think about sermons heard but also your own devotional time, additional study, etc.)
   
   b. Do you think that needs to change? Why or why not?
APPLICATION | HOMEWORK | MORE STUDY

- Read the Sermon on the Mount each week this summer.
- Read the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting each week this summer.
- How would you define “these commandments” in verse 19? Is that referring to the Old Testament commands or Jesus’ commands? Or both? Why?
- Re-read verse 18. We focused on the “I” part of Jesus’ phrase “For truly, I say to you” but why is the “to you” part of that phrase also significant? How could you use this verse to help explain how God speaks to someone who feels far from God?
- How is verse 20 both good and bad news? When you communicate the Gospel with others, do you emphasize both of those aspects as found in this verse?
- Pray for God to work on developing a heart of obedience in you this week.

REMINDERS

- Start with the text
- Expand to the context
- SOAP first: https://www.austinridge.org/am-site/media/how-to-study-the-bible.pdf
- Dictionaries, commentaries, articles, podcasts, etc., second

RESOURCES

- Bible: ESV Study Bible. A solid translation and a great study Bible.
- Read from multiple translations
- How to Read the Bible For All its Worth by Fee and Stuart
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary (both and Old and New Testament editions) by Walvoord and Zuck
- Sonic Light - Concise commentaries for each book of the Bible: http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/
- Blue Letter Bible - search a word or a passage, turn on “Strong’s” in the tool bar. Sample for “fulfill”: http://tinyurl.com/y9ozyldt