



The Gospel According To Matthew

“The kingdom of the heavens is at hand.”
-Matthew 4:17

September 9, 2007
Group Reflection Questions

1. How have you put this teaching together with what Paul teaches about the law?
2. What is the “righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees?”
3. What does this passage tell us about teaching? Who does it assume is teaching?
4. What does “everything is accomplished” mean?
5. Are you entering the kingdom more as you get older?

How to Get the Good Life

Matthew 5:17-20

Have you ever struggled with this passage? On the one hand Paul tells us we are “not justified by the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.” (Gal.2 :16) While Jesus tells us: “Do not think I have come to abolish the Law.” (Mt. 5:17) So, how do we put these two together? Here I believe Jesus isn’t talking about all the ceremonial laws, but about the true intention of the law. He is talking about the law that moves us to love God and our neighbor more rather than less. Jesus is not talking about all the ceremonial laws that had built up over decades.

Watch this though: I don’t believe Jesus is talking about getting into heaven after we die in this instance. Jesus is saying to us that the more we live the way God intends us to live, the more we will enter into the power of the kingdom of the heavens today. There is a connection between how we live and the power God will entrust to us. Just look at the life of Peter, Paul, Augustine, St. Francis, Dwight Moody, and Billy Graham just as a few examples. God gave these men amazing power because of the way they fulfilled the true law.

