

Sermon on the Mount part 3  
**The Law (Matthew 5:17-20)**

**1. Opening:**

Today we're going to continue to look at Jesus' sermon on the mount...

**2. Jesus Didn't Do Away with the Law:**

Read Matthew 5:17-20 (while youth follow along).

Teacher, share the following info (but you can put it in your own words):

- Jesus didn't do away with the Law or Prophets
  - The Law and Prophets refers to the Bible of Jesus' day (our Old Testament).
  - Jesus didn't say that God's Word He'd given so far was no good.
  - God's Word still stands, including the OT.
- Instead, Jesus came to fulfill it! Fulfilling might include:
  - By obeying it. He obeyed it perfectly.
  - By completing it.
    - For instance, because of His sacrifice, we don't do animal sacrifices.
    - Basically, it seems the ceremonial/ritual laws are completed in Jesus.
    - But we're still supposed to obey the rest of God's Word.
- And, he also helped explain the full meaning of the law (like explaining that we need to keep the law in our minds and hearts, like when He said having hate is also like murder).

**3. We Should Obey the Law:**

Teacher, share the following info (but you can put it in your own words):

Jesus said we should obey God's Word.

- Ask:
  - If we break it or teach people to break it, what does Jesus say we'll be called?  
(We'll be called least in God's kingdom.)
  - If we obey it and teach people to, what does Jesus say we'll be called?  
(We'll be called great in God's kingdom.)
- Having faith in Jesus doesn't mean it's okay to just do whatever we want! We still need to obey God!

Ask: Whose righteousness did Jesus say our righteousness must be better than to go to heaven?  
(He said it has to surpass the righteousness of Pharisees and teachers to go to heaven.)

The righteousness of the Pharisees and teachers of Law:

- At least in theory, they supposedly tried to obey the Law extremely well.
- But, Jesus called them white-washed tombs.
  - He said they looked good on the outside.
  - But inside they were like dead bones.
- It's easy to point our fingers at them, but we should ask: "Am I being a Pharisee?"  
"Am I looking good on the outside but bad on the inside?" "Am I just wearing a mask?"

**4. How Can Our Righteousness Be Better Than The Pharisees?:**

*Ask:* So, how can we have the righteousness Jesus says?

*Teacher, have youth try to answer, but give this information as needed to help supplement kids' answers:*

1. With God transforming us.
  - As Christians, the Bible says we become new creations.
  - We are to continually be transformed to become who God wants us to be.
  - *Perhaps share this Caterpillar and Butterfly analogy:* If a caterpillar could tape wings on itself and try to look like a butterfly, it still would just be a caterpillar. To be a butterfly, it has to be transformed. We need to not just try to look good on the outside. We need God to change our hearts!
2. By obeying God in love (from the heart).
  - We need to submit to Jesus as Master.
  - We need to obey the Bible and do what it says is right.
3. And, ultimately, because our faith in Jesus is credited as righteousness through Christ's sacrifice for our sin.
  - That is how we can be saved even though we still sometimes sin.
  - That doesn't give us an excuse to just live however we want.
  - But, it does give us hope!

### ***5. Opportunity to Accept Christ:***

*Encourage the kids that it is only by believing in Jesus' death on the cross for their sin that they can be saved!*

*Give an opportunity right here, for kids, if they know they are sinful and believe Jesus died on the cross for their sin, to repeat a prayer to repent of their sin and accept Jesus as Savior! (Tell them to talk to you afterward if they do!)*

### ***6. Closing Prayer***

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