



Study 3

MATTHEW 5:17-48

Hands up if you have ever used or heard the phrase (or similar), 'because I said so!'? What was the context?

Read 5:17-48

How many times does Jesus use the term "For I tell you" or "For truly, I say to you" (or similar) in this passage?

What is Jesus claiming by using such language?

The things that the disciples 'have heard' originate from the (OT) law. What is Jesus claiming about his authority when he obviously and deliberately uses language like this in relation to the law?

What does this tell us about who Jesus understood himself to be?

Does Jesus' commentary on the law make its demands seem more or less achievable?

Does sin feel more or less pervasive according to Jesus' interpretation?

What are we to understand by Jesus' demand of v20?

Let's say you could actually achieve the demands of v20. How does v48 strike you?

What does Jesus teach us about the law of God and the human heart in this passage?

How do the beatitudes (5:3-10) give us understanding and hope in light of the demands of v20 and 48?

What is 'Good.Different.' about being a follower of Jesus in this world?

FOR I TELL YOU THAT UNLESS YOUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS
SURPASSES THAT OF THE PHARISEES
AND THE TEACHERS OF THE LAW,
YOU WILL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN.
Matthew 5:20