

Session



Personal Study Guide

Raise the Bar

April 26, 2020

Introduction



What comes to mind when you think of God's Law?



How has your view of God's Law changed throughout your walk with Christ?

1. Where There's Fire, There's Smoke (Matthew 5:13-16)



When are light and salt useful? What do these two images teach you about being a Christian?



Application: Does your outward living reflect an inward transformation? Have you been saved by the power of the gospel message? If so, what is your testimony of salvation?

2. God's Word Shows the Way (Matthew 5:17-20)





What did Jesus indicate was His relationship to God's Law? What did He say about people's relationship to God's Law? What does this mean for the Christian? What does it mean for the non-Christian?




Application: Which do you see when you look at God's Law—an impossible, condemning standard or a joyful blueprint for obedience? Explain your thoughts.


3. Not Just Hands, but Heart (Matthew 5:21-37)

 What was Jesus' overarching message to His followers concerning these specific commands? What did these commands express to those who were not in Christ and depended on their own righteousness for salvation? What did these commands say about Jesus, the one who came to fulfill God's Law?

 Application: If you are a Christian, then which of these commandments are you struggling with the most? What are some strategies you can enact to fight against sin? If you are not a Christian, what will you do about your inability to obey God's law? What will you do with your sin?

Conclusion

 Do you understand the concept of Jesus' righteousness being applied to the Christian's account? If not, talk with your pastor about this essential Christian doctrine.

 What do you see when you look at God's Law? What does that indicate about the state of your soul?

 Which of the commandments that Jesus commented on do you find the most applicable to your current situation?

 How might joyfully following God's Law enable Christians to point others to the truth about Jesus?

Daily Readings

- Monday - 1 John 3:18
- Tuesday - Colossians 3:17
- Wednesday - Galatians 5:13
- Thursday - Ephesians 4:1-3
- Friday - 1 Peter 2:17
- Saturday - Matthew 20:28