



Group Guide

You Have Heard It Said

October 12, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 5:17–6:4

Theological Theme

Genuine heart change, only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit, is more important than any good works we think we do or any rules we believe we must follow. God has always been most concerned with our hearts.

Introduction

- ❓ Do you think legalism is still something the modern church struggles with? Why or why not?
- ❓ What are some ways you are prone to this way of thinking in daily life?

1. Christ Fulfills the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)

In His earthly ministry, Jesus's teaching against legalism stirred up anger and animosity from the religious leaders of the day. An example of this is when He healed on the Sabbath (Luke 6:6-11; Luke 13:10-17; John 5:1-18). The religious leaders accused Jesus of violating the law, but in our passage, Jesus refuted this by saying that He didn't come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it (v.17).

- ❓ What does it mean that Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it?
- ❓ How has Jesus fulfilled God's law perfectly?
- ❓ Application: When do you struggle feeling like you must complete a checklist of good works to remain in God's good graces? How can we seek to avoid this way of living?

2. You Have Heard It Said (Matthew 5:21-48)

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pointed firmly to the need for heart change (which can come only with the help of the Lord) over rule following. In every case, He presented a model that is different than what the people had been taught. Jesus was turning their upside-down world right-side up and teaching them how to live the way God desires.

- ❓ What is surprising about Jesus's teaching in this section?
- ❓ How does this teaching conflict with modern worldly thinking?
- ❓ Application: What of Jesus's teachings here is a struggle for you? How can you seek obedience in this area?

3. A Generous Heart (Matthew 6:1-4)

Jesus went on to address another aspect of right living: generosity. Remember, a main point of Jesus's message here: strictly following a checklist of requirements isn't what God wants from us. He cares more about our heart posture. Scripture consistently teaches that we should have a generous spirit. As God is abundantly generous with us, we should also be generous with others.

- ❓ Why do our hearts matter when it comes to giving?
- ❓ What are some ways we might give rightly but still be in the wrong?
- ❓ Application: What makes it challenging to align our hearts with godly generosity? What are some reasons a person might struggle to do so?

Conclusion

- ❓ Assess your heart posture today. What further transforming work do you need God to do in your heart and life?
- ❓ How can our group support one another in living in the counter-cultural ways Jesus described in these verses?
- ❓ How might living in this way give us further opportunity to share the gospel with others?