

What Does Jesus Think About Himself & The Bible?

Matthew 5.17-10

Overview

What Does Jesus Think of Himself? (v. 17)

- “I have come” – in straightforward terms, Jesus is explaining his mission
- He’s come to:
 - Negatively: Not abolish the Law & Prophets
 - Positively: Fulfill the Law & Prophets
 - “Law & Prophets” is shorthand for the Old Testament
- What does it mean for Jesus to “fulfill” Scripture?
 - He obeys it perfectly,
 - He realizes the prophecies completely
 - He is the focus of it primarily
 - He establishes its intended meaning most deeply
- Jesus says he’s the culmination everything the Old Testament points to and prepares us for; He thinks he is the sinless Savior who’s come to rescue God’s people from their sins and bring them back into relationship with God.
- Jesus also speaks with authority equal to God
 - The prophets of old said, “Thus says the Lord” and the apostles said, “It is written” but not Jesus. He says, “I say to you...”

What Does Jesus Think of the Bible? (v. 20)

- Jesus says the Word is more enduring than the world, not just in its ideas and concepts but down to the very punctuation
- Jesus seems to go out of his way to show he sees the Bible as God’s true and trustworthy Word – every bit of it.
 - Jesus never questions a single event; he never questions a single miracle ; he never questions a single historical claim in the Bible
 - In Matthew 19 he says God wrote the Bible
 - In Matthew 22 he says the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible
 - He references Adam and Eve, Able, Noah and the ark, Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, Isaac, Jacob, the burning bush, the giving of manna, the serpent in the wilderness, Moses as the lawgiver, David and Solomon, Elijah and Elisha, Daniel, Naaman, Zechariah, and even Jonah in the belly of the fish.

How Then Should We Live? (v. 20)

- In light of who Jesus is (v. 17) and in light of the enduring authority of God’s word (v. 18) “therefore” we should live with neither lawlessness (v. 19) nor legalism (v. 20)
 - We should preach and practice all the commands of Christ – from the least to the greatest – while always relying upon Christ not our obedience.
- Our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees not only in degree but also in kind
 - It’s not a righteousness of ourselves, but that which comes from Christ
 - And that which truly comes from Christ will lead us to practice showcasing the righteousness we have in Christ

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What are some common views of Jesus that you've come across in your day-to-day? OR How do you think most people view the Bible?*

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What does it mean that Jesus came to “fulfill” the “Law and the Prophets”?
2. How do these verses show us the unique authority of Jesus?
3. What do verses 17-18 tell us about how Jesus sees himself?
4. Why do you think so many people want to call Jesus a good teacher or moral leader, but do not want to see him the way he sees himself?
5. In verse 18, what do you learn about Jesus' view of the Bible? How does this inform your view of God's Word?
6. How does verse 19 flow from verse 18, and why is this connection important to grasp?
7. Where are you tempted to relax God's commands upon your life?
8. How does our righteousness exceed that of the Pharisees both in degree and kind?

Accountability Question: *Are there areas where you're purposefully relaxing God's commands?*

How have you been encouraged by others in the church regarding their desire to obey all that God has commanded?