



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah

**Passage** Mathew 5:17-48

**Title:** The Intent of the Bible

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard – 5/24/2020

**Discussion Starter** –What are a few of the purposes of scripture? (See 2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 19:7-11, Matthew 4:4). These are specific benefits of scripture; Pastor David said that there is a greater intent behind these – what is that intent? How does this understanding lead to a deeper understanding of the purpose of scripture?

### **Jesus did not create a new religion (verses 5:17-20)**

- What does the word “fulfill” mean in this context? What are some ways that Jesus fulfilled the law? (See John 5:39, Luke 24:27).
- How is Christianity the fulfillment of Judaism? How did Jesus fulfill the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First fruits, and the Feast of Weeks? What Feast still remain?
- Why might some people think that the God of the Old Testament is different from the God of the New Testament? (See Malachi 3:6) How might you reconcile Romans 10:4 with Malachi 3:6?
- It is easy to see the Pharisees as hypocritical religious leaders. Is it possible that we all share some of the traits of the Pharisees? How did the Pharisees believe they attained righteousness? As believers, how do we attain our own righteousness?

### **The true intent of God’s Law (Verses 5:21-48)**

- In these verses Jesus magnifies the meaning of Old Testament instruction? Why was this necessary?
- Why did Jesus begin each teaching with the phrase “You have heard”? How does this phrase imply a misinterpretation of God’s instruction?
- According to verses 21-26 the emotion of anger can be a precursor to sinful behavior. Is being angry a sin? What are you to do when angry? How is this instruction an example of God’s true intent of the commandment not to murder?
- Living to the letter, and not the intent of the Law, is a form of self-justification. What is justification? Pastor David described two other ways we try to justify our behavior – what are they?
- How are the traits described in the Beatitudes a requirement to successfully follow these instructions? Using verses 38-42 as an example, describe how the traits of being poor in spirit, mourning for your sin, meekness, a hunger for righteousness, mercy and being a peacemaker are required to fulfill Jesus’ teaching?