



Rising to Christ's Toughest Challenges
A Study of Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

First, o_____ Christ's attitude toward God's rules.

The Old Testament was fulfilled by . . .

. . . the practices he performed

. . . the precepts he taught

. . . the prophecies he fulfilled

. . . the penalty he paid

. . . the people he called

Second, c_____ Christ's attitude toward God's rules.

Christ expects a righteousness that is . . .

. . . internal, not just external

. . . total, not partial

. . . spiritual, not ceremonial

. . . God-centered, not self-centered

Verse 21, "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you...."

Verse 27, "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you...."

Verse 31, "It has been said.... But I tell you...."

Verse 33, "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you...."

Verse 38, "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you...."

Verse 43, "You have heard that it was said.... But I tell you...."

"You are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."
Matthew 5:48

Two encouragements:

First, these words are meant to **impress**, not **depress**.

Second, Christ's tough commands drive us to Christ's wonderful **grace**.