

## ***Kingdom Righteousness***

Gospel of Matthew, Part 24

Matthew 5:20, Sermon Outline

### **I. The PROBLEM with the Pharisee's Righteousness**

- A. "Righteousness" based on the quantifiable letter.
- B. "Righteousness" that was external.
- C. "Righteousness" that exalted the self.
- D. "Righteousness" through the law, apart from faith.

*The Pharisees saw the law as a way TO life.*

### **II. The POWER of Jesus' Surpassing Righteousness**

- A. Jesus demands a SURPASSING righteousness.
  - 1. Righteousness based on love, not the letter.
  - 2. Righteousness that is internal, not external.
  - 3. Righteousness that is way beyond the self.
  - 4. Righteousness apart from the law, through faith.
- B. Jesus provides a SURPASSING righteousness.
  - 1. Righteousness alien to us and outside of us. (Phil. 3:9)
  - 2. Righteousness imputed to us. (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - 3. Righteousness working in us to obey. (Phil 2:12-13)

*The Christian sees the law as a way OF life, by the power of Christ.*

### **Questions for Discussion & Reflection**

What is the dangerous pitfall we face in studying Matthew 5:20-48? Who is Jesus' audience? Why is the Pharisee's righteousness relevant? Explain the phrase, "The law is not a way TO life, but a way OF life." Contrast the righteousness of Christ and the Pharisees.