



THE CALL TO KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS

JULY 8, 2018 | MATTHEW 5:17-20 | BRAD MILLS

F260 BIBLE READING PLAN

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

WEEK 28 (JULY 9)

Esther 5-7 | Esther 8-10 | Nehemiah 1-2 | Nehemiah 3-4 | Nehemiah 5-6

MEMORY VERSES

Deuteronomy 29:29 | Psalm 101:3-4

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

Kingdom righteousness is embodied by those who recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of the law and obey its commands in light of Him.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Total Surrender: I dedicate my life to God's purposes. *"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship," (Romans 12:1, CSB).*

Questions for Your Journal

Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
- How does my life measure up to this word?
- What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
- What truth do I need to study further?

How Should We Understand the Law in Matthew?

Scholars often have pointed out that Matthew's conception of the law emphasizes continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In Matthew 5:17–20 the abiding validity of the law is underscored. Jesus did not come “to abolish the Law or the Prophets” but “to fulfill them” (v. 17). Indeed, not even an iota or dot “will pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (v. 18). Those who minimize even the least of the commandments will be least in the kingdom (v. 19). Those who maintain that Matthew preserved a conservative view of the Old Testament law argue that Jesus did not violate the Sabbath but upheld it (12:1–14). Matthew excludes Mark's explicit statement that all foods are clean (Mark 7:19; cf. Matt. 15:1–20). The antitheses (Matt. 5:21–48) can be understood, as we shall see in the next question, as preserving the true intention of the law. Sacrifice in the temple (Matt. 5:24) and tithing (Matt. 23:23) are commended, and disciples are exhorted to pray that their exit from Jerusalem will not take place on the Sabbath (Matt. 24:20), which could be understood as a validation of the Sabbath by Matthew. Jesus even endorses everything the scribes teach (Matt. 23:2–3), though he criticizes their hypocrisy.

The notion that Matthew emphasizes only continuity in his view of the law should be rejected. The theme of fulfillment is prominent in the gospel (Matt. 1:22; 2:15, 17, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 27:9; cf. also 3:15; 26:54, 56), but the fulfillment centers on Jesus Christ and thus should be understood in terms of the newness that is realized in Christ. Jesus fulfills the law, but the law also points to him. Jesus' life, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection explicate the true meaning of the law. Matthew features both continuity and discontinuity relative to the law; so it is misleading to see only continuity. For instance, Matthew justifies Jesus' actions on the Sabbath with legal arguments (12:5, 11–12), and yet there is another dimension to the accounts. Jesus is the greater David (vv. 3–4), greater than the temple (v. 6), and “lord of the Sabbath” (v. 8). Jesus does not abolish the Sabbath in Matthew, but he emphasizes that the Sabbath points to him and finds its fulfillment in him, so that the Sabbath must be interpreted Christologically. It follows, therefore, that the Sabbath must be interpreted in a new way with the coming of Jesus and the kingdom.

Even though Matthew does not explicitly include the Markan comment that all foods are clean (Mark 7:19), it does not follow that Matthew 15:1–20 emphasizes only continuity relative to the law.

Jesus severely criticized those who exalted their tradition over the word of God (vv. 1–9). Here laws that reflect moral norms, such as honoring parents, are cited. And in verse 11 Jesus declared that food does not render one unclean. The word used for “defile” confirms that food laws in the Old Testament are under consideration (cf. Lev. 11:1–44; Deut. 14:3–21), and Jesus specifically said that food does not make one unclean. We clearly have an instance, then, in which the newness introduced by Jesus leads to the abolition of laws found in the Old Testament. Theologically, what we find here fits with what is called the law of Christ in Paul. The law is fulfilled in Christ and must be interpreted in light of Christ’s coming. Hence, the focus is no longer on the law but on Christ himself.¹

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 5:17–20 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus claims that He did not come to “abolish but fulfill.” **Look up some of the other places where the word “fulfill” is used in Matthew’s Gospel? What do these passages have in common? What does that tell us about Jesus’ ministry?**

In Sunday’s sermon we learned that the Law has ongoing authority and significance. **Read Matthew 5:18. Compare this verse with Isaiah 40:8, Isaiah 55:11, and Luke 21:33. When do the Words of God fail? How should this lead us to trust God?**

Jesus warns us that those who “annul” the Law for themselves and others will be “least in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). **Read Luke 17:1–4. How does our personal conduct influence other Christians? In what ways could you encourage, rather than harm, other Christians with your obedience?**

Next week’s sermon will cover Matthew 5:21–48. **Read that passage a couple of times this week in preparation for hearing God’s Word to you. Make notes here of anything that jumps out to you and ask God to speak to you next week.**

Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 (“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?
(How does it teach me?)

2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?
(How does it reprove me?)

3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

(How does it correct me?)

4. How does this passage tell me to live?

(How does it train me in righteousness?)

Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

About The Map

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

NOTES:

1. Thomas R. Schreiner, *40 Questions about Christians and Biblical Law*, ed. Benjamin L. Merkle, 40 Questions Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2010), 161–163.
2. Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 106.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

Big Picture Questions for Unit 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschool: Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should tell about Jesus all the time.*

Kids (1-6): Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Jesus Has the Power to Provide**

Day 1: *Esther 5-7*

Day 2: *Esther 8-10*

Day 3: *Nehemiah 1-2*

Day 4: *Nehemiah 3-4*

Day 5: *Nehemiah 5-6*

*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, New Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

Key Passage for Unit 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschoolers: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

Kids (1-6 grade): “My eager expectation and hope is that ... Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:20–21).

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



Adventure Token Coupon

Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage _____.

I read my Bible at home _____.

Child’s Name _____.

Parent’s Signature _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**