

# **THE RIGHT KIND** **OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

## **An introduction to: “The Sermon on the Mount”**

**We need to realize that the right kind of righteousness  
comes through a relationship with Christ.**

### **I. RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFINED BY THE RELIGIOUS**

#### **A. THEIR ATTITUDE - See Matthew 23**

1. Wanting to be seen by men (5)
2. Involvement in missions enterprises (15)
3. Given to the interpretation of oaths (16)
4. Scrupulous attention to tithing (23)
5. Consumed with externals (27)

#### **B. THEIR ACCUSATIONS - See Luke 5-6**

1. Christ is a blasphemer (5:21)
2. Christ eats and drinks with sinners (5:30)
3. Christ’s disciples don’t fast and pray (5:33)
4. Christ plucked corn (worked) on the sabbath! (6:1-2)
5. Christ healed on the sabbath (6:7)

#### **C. THEIR ASSESSMENT - Luke 6:11**

- Christ did not meet their standards and therefore must be stopped

### **II. RIGHTEOUSNESS ROOTED IN REPENTANCE**

#### **A. THE MESSAGES PREACHED**

1. By John the Baptist - Matthew 3:1-12
2. By Jesus Christ - Matthew 4:17

#### **B. THE MEANING PROPOSED**

1. The people needed to change their focus from physical healing to spiritual health  
- See Matthew 4:23-25 and Luke 6:17-19
2. They needed to change their minds about themselves and their kind of righteousness - see Luke 5:32
3. They needed to understand that repentance involves a personal confession of sin
4. The people needed to accept Christ’s teaching about righteousness – see Matthew 5:20

### III. RIGHTEOUSNESS NOT REIGN

#### A. MANY FOCUS ON THE KINGDOM TERMINOLOGY

- See Matthew 5:3, 10, 19-20; 6:10, 33 and 7:21

1. They stress that the sermon is a charter for world peace
2. Others see this a God's covenant for kingdom living

#### B. JESUS' FOCUS WAS TO DEFINE RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. This is the kind of righteousness God desires
2. Answering the question: What does a sanctified like look like?
3. He is presenting the works of salvation not the way

### IV. RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMONSTRATED ...

#### A. BY CHARACTER (5:3-20)

1. Rewarded character (3-12)
2. Radiant character (13-16)
3. Right character (17-20)

#### B. BY COMPREHENSION (5:21-48)

1. The contrasts: "You have heard" ... "But I say"
2. The content: A proper understanding of ...
  - Murder (21-26), adultery (27-32), oaths (33-37), justice (38-42) and love (43-48)

#### C. BY CONDUCT (6:1-7:12)

1. Loving God (6:1-34)
  - Conduct in alms (1-4), prayer (5-15), fasting (16-18), wealth (19-24) and faith (25-34)
2. Loving others (7:1-12)
  - Conduct in judgment (1-5) and requests (6-12)

#### D. BY COMMITMENT (7:13-27)

- Which gate (13-14), teacher (15-23) and foundation (24-27)

E. NOTE: Proper righteousness must be demonstrated by proper character, comprehension, conduct and commitment. The religious had none of this but the repentant have all of this through Christ

**CONCLUSION:**

**Many people today have a righteousness obtained through religion**

1. They are blind - see **II Cor. 4:3**
2. They are powerless - see **II Tim. 3:1-5**

**These need righteousness through a relationship with Christ!**