

Think of a time when your heart and actions were not aligned. Share of a time when your external behaviors failed to match your internal beliefs.

In **Matthew 5:17-20** Jesus says our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. Read **Matthew 23:25-28** and describe their “*righteousness*” in your own words.

Now read **Matthew 5:21-32** and discuss the following.

Jesus uses three examples to illustrate our need of a greater righteousness. What are they? How are these connected to one another? What do they have in common? How are they different?

What does Jesus mean when He says, “*You have heard*” (**v.21,27,& 31**)? What does He *not* mean? Is He minimizing and disregarding the law or doing something else?

How does Jesus reveal a clearer and deeper interpretation of the law? How does this definition differ from the righteousness of the Pharisees? Explain.

According to Jesus, what root issues or motivating forces are behind murder, adultery, and divorce?

In your opinion, what does Jesus seem to prioritize as most important in this passage? Explain your answer(s).

What is the point of Jesus’ hyperbolic language in **v.29-30**? What are we to take away from these verses?

How has Jesus fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law and extended His righteousness to us?

What about this passage and discussion has most comforted and/or convicted you personally?