

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

The Heart of the Matter

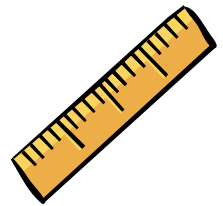
Matthew 5:17-30

Getting Started

Did you have family rules when you were a child? Tell about them.

Digging In

1. **Read 5:17-20.** In what sense did Jesus fulfill the Law?
2. How could our righteousness possibly be greater than that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law? (v. 20)
3. **Read 5:21-22.** How does Jesus raise the standard with regard to murder?
4. **Read 5:23-24.** How can we apply this principle of pursuing reconciliation with fellow believers today?
5. **Read 5:25-26.** Do you think this is realistic? Why or why not?
6. **Read 5:27-30.** Jesus is obviously using hyperbole (overstatement) to make a point. What is his point?



What Now?

- Jesus has been talking about inside-out obedience – righteousness that begins in the heart. As you reflect on your own Christian experience, to what extent would you say your obedience is a matter of the heart?
- Is there an area of your life where you're taking pride in external obedience, even though your heart is not really in it?
- Is there someone with whom you need to seek reconciliation? If so, what steps will you take?
- Have you given lust a foothold in your life? If so, how will you get serious about dealing with this sin?