

LIVING AS LIGHTS

MATTHEW 5:17-26

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **Matthew 5:17-18**

I. The Place of the Law

II. The Problem of Anger

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What makes you laugh the most?

Into the Bible

2. Some people teach that even as Christians we need to follow the Old Testament practices of worship such as keeping the Sabbath and avoiding certain foods. Is this what Christ is teaching in verses 17-20? Read what Paul wrote about righteousness and the law in Romans 3:19-31. What insight does that passage give us into what Jesus meant in Matthew 5:20?

3. How does Christ's teaching in verses 21-22 exemplify what he already stated in verse 20?

Application

4. How important is seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with a brother or sister we have transgressed upon? What seems to be at stake when we fail in this?

5. Verse 22 seems to lay out a very severe penalty for a relatively minor offense. What do you think is the real issue behind the anger at a brother? Talk with your group about how the current restrictions that we are living under give opportunities to be angry with other people. How do you deal with situations like that?

For Families

6. Talk to your children about the importance of dealing properly with our anger. Be prepared to be the good example they need.