

Summary

Pastor Jack delivered a Mother's Day message that honored all women while diving into part four of 'The Way of Jesus' series. He addressed Jesus's teaching in Matthew 5:17-20 about the relationship between Jesus and Scripture. The sermon emphasized that Jesus didn't come to abolish the Old Testament but to fulfill it, viewing Scripture as a complete story that reaches its peak in Jesus's life. Pastor Jack challenged the congregation to move beyond external religious behaviors to allow Jesus to transform their hearts from the inside out, using anger as an example of how Jesus addresses the root issues of the heart rather than just surface-level compliance with rules.

Questions

- How does Jesus's view of Scripture challenge our modern tendency to pick and choose which parts of the Bible we want to follow?
- What's the difference between behavioral righteousness (like the Pharisees) and the heart righteousness that Jesus calls us to?
- Pastor Jack mentioned that we can 'fake the gifts of the Spirit but not the fruit of the Spirit.' What do you think this means and why is character more important than talent?
- How can we practically engage with difficult or confusing parts of Scripture instead of just avoiding them?
- Jesus said all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him, and He mediates that authority through Scripture. How does this affect how we approach the Bible?
- What are some ways we might be guilty of 'keeping the commandment but missing the point' in our own lives?
- How does understanding that Jesus came to fulfill Scripture rather than abolish it change how we read the Old Testament?
- What does it look like practically to invite Jesus to address what's going on in our hearts rather than just focusing on external behaviors?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been focusing on external behavior or 'rule-following' rather than allowing Jesus to address your heart. Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to reveal the root issues

behind surface-level struggles, and commit to reading Scripture not just as rules to follow but as God's story that points to Jesus and His transforming work in your life.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus came not to abolish Scripture but to fulfill it, viewing the Bible as one complete story that reaches its peak in His life and ministry
- We cannot pick and choose which parts of Scripture to follow while ignoring the difficult or uncomfortable passages
- Jesus is our ultimate authority, and He mediates that authority through Scripture, making the Bible essential for following Him
- True righteousness is not about external behavior modification but about internal heart transformation that Jesus brings
- Jesus addresses the root issues of our hearts, not just surface-level compliance with rules, as demonstrated in His teaching about anger and murder

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that challenges and transforms us. We acknowledge that we often struggle with wanting to maintain control rather than submitting to Your authority through Scripture. Help us to move beyond external behaviors and religious appearances to allow You to do the deep heart work that only You can do. Give us courage to engage with all of Your Word, even the parts that make us uncomfortable, knowing that You use it to shape us into the image of Jesus. Transform us from the inside out and help us to live as people who truly follow Jesus with our whole hearts. In His precious name, Amen.