

The Sermon on the Mount
Christian Righteousness
Matthew 5:17-20; 21-30

In order for the Jewish people to really get their minds around the reality of the kingdom being announced by Jesus, He first must deconstruct their current view of the kingdom. He has to show them that moralism from a purely human perspective will fail them in their attempts to behave their way into heaven. Jesus has to say some hard things in order to correct their thinking, and we know that no one likes to be told that they are wrong in their thinking.

1. Jesus doesn't abolish the law but fulfills it on our behalf.
2. Reconciliation is the antidote to an angry, murderous heart.
3. Purity is as much a heart matter as it is a physical matter.

Progressive Christianity seeks to deconstruct the Bible's description of the nature and character of God in order to create a God that demands less and allows more. Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount so that we won't fall into that trap. Every true reformation will be contrary to the culture not contrary to the Bible. Jesus didn't come and die to conform you to cultural preferences. He came and died so that by faith He could conform you to His image and impute to you a righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees. That righteousness, the righteousness of Christ, is what allows us to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection

Do you believe the Bible exists primarily to make us good citizens? Do you believe the gospel mandates that worship services look a certain way, contain certain songs, and follow a particular liturgy? What are some of the things related to church that you grew up with, that may have had a deep impact in your spiritual growth and maturity, but might not be relevant to Bible believing Christians in other parts of the world? Does that make their Christianity less valid than your own? Are there unattempted reconciliations that currently hinder your worship? Are there impure thoughts or actions that violate God's character and design for your life? If so, don't run from Jesus in shame. Run to Him in repentance and find the forgiveness and mercy and grace that is freely offered through His finished work at the cross.