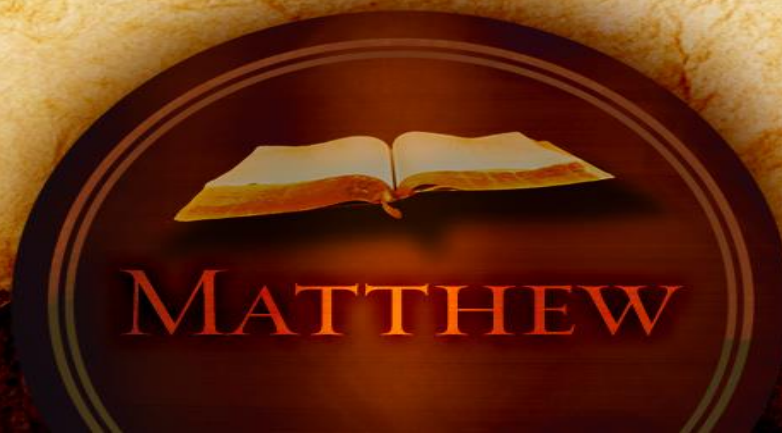




Matthew 5:20

Part 2





Jesus is saying 2 things in v. 20

1. The righteousness required to enter the kingdom of Heaven is unattainable/impossible for sinful man.
2. The “righteousness” of the scribes and Pharisees is not a saving righteousness. In fact, it’s not righteousness at all. Theirs is a fake “righteousness” of appearance only.

Matthew 5:20



“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Who they were:



Scribes: Experts in the Law of Moses. Recorders and teachers of the Word of God. Knew Hebrew/Greek. Trained in the application of the Scripture.

Pharisees: A strict religious sect of Judaism. They were the Religious Jewish conservatives of their day. Popular among the Jewish people. They had dedicated their lives to living out the Law of Moses to the Letter as well as the traditions of the Elders. Most of the Scribes were of this sect.



Implicit truth from last week:

- ✓ Just because you know your bible, just because you say Jesus is the Son of God, doesn't necessarily mean you're going to heaven.



Ezra 7:10

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of Yahweh and to practice it, and to teach His statute and judgment in Israel.”

Luke 18:9



“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:”



The Fatal flaw of Self-Righteousness

- ✓ Self-righteousness and pride are ONE of the main reasons the scribes and Pharisees would NOT see the kingdom of heaven.



The divine standard of righteousness is perfection!

Matthew 5:48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

James 2:10 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”



Isaiah 64:6 "All our righteous deeds are like filthy garments"

Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way."

1 Kings 8:46 "When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin)."

Ecc. 7:20 "When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin).

Ps. 14:1-3; Ps. 53:13, Rom. 3:9 "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

Rom. 3:25 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."



1 John 5:13

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Matthew 5:20



“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”



The Fatal flaw of scribes and Pharisees

✓ They trusted in themselves that they were righteous...

Phil. 3:4-9



“Although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, **not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,



The Fatal flaw of the scribes and Pharisees.

- ✓ They were SELF righteous.
- ✓ They trusted in themselves that they were righteous and “good enough” to enter the kingdom on their own merit.
- ✓ **Don't YOU make the same mistake.**
- ✓ Trust in Jesus.