

Matthew 5:13-20

International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. How might you use Jesus’ teaching in these verses to help someone who thinks that if they are a Christian then they do not need to obey the law of God?

Jesus told His disciples that they would be considered great in the kingdom of heaven if they obeyed and taught the commandments of God. True Christians will love Jesus Christ and want to obey Him; they will not be arguing about whether or not they should or “need to” obey Jesus in order to be saved and go to heaven. Jesus told His followers: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

2. Why might you say it is important or unimportant to teach Christians about the moral law and the ceremonial law?

It is important because people need to know what is right and wrong, absolutely right and wrong from the revealed will of God, the Bible. Jesus’ followers need to know that He will help them obey Him and do what is right in every situation. Many of the ceremonial laws show what is needed for God to be loving, just, and merciful when forgiving repentant sinners who come to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Teaching both of

these types of laws will help people see how Jesus fulfilled both types, and this will help them believe in and trust Jesus with their lives and their eternal destiny.

3. How might someone exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? Do Christians need to do this?

If the scribes and Pharisees are not obeying God because they really love God, but for other reasons; such as, to be seen and praised by others; then those who obey God because they love God will exceed the scribes and Pharisees in righteousness. Christians who love God will obey Him because they love Him and want to glorify and serve Him with their lives; this is exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. It is not a matter of “needing to so this” in order to be saved. The saved person will want to do this because they love God and want to bring God joy by the way they live each day. The true Christian has been forgiven by God, cleansed from sin by Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit; therefore, their righteousness will exceed the righteousness of those who do not love God or follow Jesus.

4. Compare Psalms 119:160 — “The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever” with Matthew 5:19.

The whole Bible is the truth of God, for the Bible is God’s Word written to us. God’s righteous ordinances in the Bible are unchanging truth to be fulfilled by Jesus because they pointed to Him as the Messiah, Lord and Savior, or these ordinances are to be obeyed, and those who follow Jesus receive the power of the Holy Spirit to obey Jesus. God’s commands will endure forever, and when God’s kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven God’s children will continue to love God and others.

5. Is Psalms 119:124 — “Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes” a prayer the followers of Jesus can still pray today?

Yes. Speaking of the commandments, in Matthew 5:19, Jesus said, “whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven,” and in Matthew 28:20, Jesus has commanded us, as His disciples, saying, “and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” And because we have sinned, but want to love and obey God always, we need the Lord God to deal with us according to His steadfast love.

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