

THE KING SPEAKS

a Study in the Sermon On The Mount | Discussion Guide
Week 3 – September 30
Ultimate Authority | Matthew 5:17-20

Introduction

As in buying real estate, three principles are crucial to understanding a person's words: location, location, and location. We cannot make sense of what someone says unless we understand the context in which his or her words were uttered. To use the real estate comparison, Jesus – in his speaking – did not just move into an empty part of town and begin to build all the houses himself. He moved into a neighborhood already built up: in fact, one that had been occupied for many centuries by the same people – his people, the Jews.
"Become What You Are" William W. Klein

In this week's passage, Jesus clarifies his relationship to the Old Testament Law and the writings of the Prophets. In doing this, he also emphasizes the value he places on everything written in the Old Testament.

Read Matthew 5:17-20 before beginning this week's study.

Questions for Study

1. Jesus makes four statements about the Law and the Prophets. Since the Law and the Prophets are what comprise the Old Testament, another way to say this is that Jesus makes four statements about the Old Testament.

Each one of these statements are made in the four verses you just read. Write in your own words what Jesus said in each one of these verses. What is he emphasizing in each statement?

First statement (vs. 17)

Second statement (vs. 18)

Third statement (vs. 19)

Fourth statement (vs. 20)

2. From what Jesus said in these four verses, how important is it to your spiritual growth to know what's taught in the Old Testament? Why?
3. Would you say that your reading and effort to understand the Old Testament is consistent with your answer to the above question? What books of the Old Testament have you found the easiest to read? What books are the most challenging for you?