

Monday: Matthew 5:1-20. Reflect on verse 20: The Pharisees were strictly religious but Jesus expects a higher standard of living that involves inward “rightness” with God, not just outward right behaviour. This is only ours when we trust in Jesus and live by the Spirit. Jesus is our righteousness!

Tuesday: Matthew 5:21-48. Consider: Jesus highlighted the moral laws but changed their meaning to involve our inward attitudes not just our outward behaviour. Which of these commands challenges you the most and how will you respond?

Wednesday: Matthew 6:1-18. Think: Jesus gives three examples of outwardly religious behaviour that can focus more on us than on God. In what ways are you tempted to do things to impress others or yourself, rather than God?

Thursday: Matthew 6:19-34. Personal application: Sometimes it is easier to worry about immediate, material things rather than putting our faith in the God of our eternal destiny. How does modern advertising affect you, or cause you to focus on wrong things?

Friday: Matthew 7:1-29. Prepare: The focus in this chapter is on genuine faith in Christ. The parable of the wise and foolish builders again emphasises the need to pay attention to the parts of our life others do not see. When the storms of life hit, only those built on the Rock will stand. Have you put the right foundations in your life to prepare for the inevitable storm?

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