

The King and His Scriptures

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Text: Matthew 5:17-20

Series: King of Kings

Date: April 28, 2013, 10:30am

Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: I invite you to turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 5:17-20**. We are in a series through the book of Matthew entitled: “King of kings!” Today’s we are looking at: “The King and His Scriptures”.

Is the Bible Irrelevant Today?

Today, many people are saying the Bible is irrelevant. Because of this even some professing Christian churches are rethinking the structure of the family. The church is becoming less and less of a influencing agent in society because it is becoming more and more like the world around us.

I want to ask you: Is the Bible relevant today? Some of the most popular and best selling “Christian” books today about growing the church basically say in order to grow the church you have to make unbelievers feel comfortable. You need to make the church feel like a movie theater, a bar, or a concert. I want to challenge this idea today because we come to a place in our study of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus talks about what He thinks about the Bible.

Has a church that preaches the Bible clearly lost touch with the culture? I want to propose to you today that our Lord had not called us to connect and relate with the culture, but to redeem and transform the culture. We have a godless culture, and I am afraid that instead of the church influencing the world, the world is changing our churches.

I believe this massive shift in our churches is due to a very weak understanding of the power and authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures. It is this very issue that Jesus addresses in our text today. Let’s read it.

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 5:17–20, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

There are four things that ought to hold our attention in this passage:

- The Bible is about **Jesus** (vs.17).
- The Bible is **authoritative** (vs. 18)

- The Bible is to be applied **outwardly** (vs. 19)
- The Bible is to be applied **inwardly** (vs. 20)

I. The Bible is about **Jesus** (vs. 17).

Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Reasons Why People Might Have Thought Christ Was Setting Aside the Law

There were many reasons people thought Jesus was setting aside God’s law.

- Jesus presented Himself for baptism outside the Temple. When He went to the Temple, He cleaned it out of money changers and called them robbers.
- They heard Him say “tear down this Temple, and I’ll build it in three days” – of course He was talking about the Temple of His body, but nonetheless, it sounded radical.
- He was accused of setting aside the Law of the Sabbath because He healed people on the Sabbath Day.
- They perceived Him as setting aside the disciplines of the Law since His disciples celebrated that Messiah had come and would not mourn and fast. The Lord’s critics said, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” (Matt. 9:14).
- Most of all, Jesus was a friend of sinners. He was a friend of those who had been excommunicated and who were unclean. They said of him: “Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners” (Matt. 11:18–19).

Jesus’ Mission

Jesus’ mission was never to set aside the Law. The Law is not in contradiction to Jesus. The Law points to Jesus! He did not come to do away with it. It was never in contradiction with His mission. The Law is holy and good. The Law reveals the character and attributes of God. And the Prophets speak of His coming in the power of His Kingdom.

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:28**, “if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Is the Bible Relevant?

We continually hear the idea that because times have changed the Bible does not fit our day. The truth, of course, is the opposite. The Bible always fits, because the Bible is God’s perfect, eternal, and infallible Word. It is the world that does not fit the Bible. The world constantly changes. The Bible never changes. And even though outwardly the world has changed a great deal since biblical days, in its basic nature and direction it has always been hostile to and opposed to God. The world has never conformed to His Word. The world has never fit Scripture.

The truth is, if we set aside the Scriptures, we are setting aside Christ, because the Scriptures speak of Christ. We certainly want to make the Bible plain to people, but we are not called to edit it. Christ cannot be improved upon. We have a perfect Word that

presents a perfect Savior and King. So Christ did not come to set the Law and the Prophets aside. He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.

Does Jesus Fulfill the Law?

In Christ's coming to earth and His work as Redeemer, Jesus fulfills all of the law-moral, judicial, and ceremonial.

When Jesus starts by saying, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets" (v. 17), He is referring to misunderstandings concerning His teaching that had developed in the early days of his Galilean ministry.

Five times in the New Testament we are told of Jesus' claiming to be the theme of the Old Testament: here, in Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; and in Hebrews 10:7.

- He says He's come to "fulfill the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 5:17).
- Luke 24:27, "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."
- Luke 24:44, "everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me."
- Hebrews 10:7, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."

How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law?

He meets the Law's demands. So how does Jesus fulfill the Law? Certainly, Jesus fulfilled the Law by fully meeting its demands. In His life He perfectly kept every part of the law. He was perfectly righteous and did not violate the smallest part of God's law. He was utterly flawless in His obedience, and He provided the perfect model of absolute righteousness.

He fulfills the Types and Shadows. Most importantly, as the Spirit surely intends to emphasize here, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament by *being* its fulfillment. He did not simply teach it fully and exemplify it fully-He *was* it fully. What do we mean?

- He fulfills all the Law's **prophecies** of a promised King and Savior.
- He fulfills all the Law's **pictures**, and types and shadows. Consider a few pictures....
 - He's the true Passover Lamb
 - He's the true Israel, God's faithful Son
 - He is the true Moses who delivers His people from slavery to sin and death
 - He's the true Prophet, Priest, and long awaited King
 - He inhabits the true Temple, His Body, the Church
- He fulfills all the Law's **moral demands** without spot or blemish or failure.

He does not come to set the Law aside, but He is the ultimate fulfillment of the Law of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is about Jesus! Every page points to His work of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. His life and death are the scarlet cord that is weaved through the Bible.

Jesus made it clear in this, His first major sermon that God's true standard was much higher than the human traditions of the Pharisees, and that, as the Messiah, He had not come to diminish the law in the least bit, but to uphold and fulfill it in every detail.

We Have No Power without Christ

You have no power to fulfill the Law. You have no power to meet its demands. You have no power to live the new life. That power to accomplish all that God has for you is in Jesus.

II. The Bible is authoritative (vs. 18)

Matthew 5:18, “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Jesus always is looking to the eschaton, the end of the world. The Bible Jesus accomplishes all that is in the Law, because the entire Old Testament points to Him. But there is something even more being said in verse 18. The Bible is authoritative. How is the Bible authoritative?

God-Breathed

First of all, it is God's Word. Peter says it is “God breathed”. Every tiny stroke of the pen in Hebrew, every tiny dot on a Hebrew letter in the Scriptures is breathed out by God! God has every right to tell us what to do in every jot and tittle of His Word. There are no unimportant passages in God's Word. This is why Peter says in **2 Peter 3:16**, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

When Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that the Scriptures are God-breathed (*theopneustos*) he means that the words of Scriptures find their origin in God. This implies that that the words of the original manuscripts of the sixty-six books of the Bible are God's very words.

God's Word has authority over my life because He breathed it out and spoke it to me. That means God through the Bible can command what I do and what I think. The Scriptures did not “receive their authority from any Church, tradition, or any other human source”,¹ but solely by virtue of their divine origin

The authority of God's intent extends to the very words themselves (verbal inspiration), not just concepts or ideas, and to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary inspiration).

Reliable

Everything God says in His Word will come to pass. It is absolutely reliable.. If God has spoken to us in the Bible, if the Bible is his Word, then the Bible must be truthful, because God is a God of truth; it must be reliable in all its parts, because God is utterly reliable; it must be lastingly authoritative, because God is the only ultimate and

¹International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, *The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy*. Chicago, Illinois, 1978.

eternally abiding authority. If the Bible is not truthful, in even one of its very small parts, then it is not from God and it has no more authority over us than any other merely human document.

Relevant

It is the only book that has an authority that outlasts the heavens that is to speak into our lives. The Bible is a timeless Book. The heavens and earth will pass away before this book becomes irrelevant!

It is incredibly foolish to ask, “What does the Bible, a two-thousand-year-old book, have to say to us today?” The Bible is the eternal Word of the eternal God. It “is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword” (Heb. 4:12). It has long preceded and will long outlast every person who questions its validity and relevancy.

The Bible is so authoritative, that not a jot or a tittle, not a tiny iota or the a little dot of a Hebrew letter will be erased **from the Law**. Not even the tiniest, seemingly most, part of God’s Word will be removed or modified **until all is accomplished**.

Without the smallest exception, every commandment, every prophecy, every figure and symbol and type would be **accomplished**.

Verbally Inerrancy

No other statement made by our Lord more clearly states His absolute contention that Scripture is verbally inerrant, totally without error in the original form in which God gave it. That is, Scripture is God’s own Word not only down to every single written word, but down to every letter and the smallest part of every letter.

Sufficient

2 Peter 1:4-5, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature”.

It is significant that one of the biblical names of Christ is “Wonderful Counselor” (Isa. 9:6). He is the highest and ultimate One to whom we may turn for counsel, and His Word is the well from which we may draw divine wisdom. He is the “Miracle working counselor”. It is through His Word that spiritual breakthroughs come. We must be in His Word if we are to grow and change.

- Is the Bible sufficient for *the church’s evangelistic task*? Many do not seem to think so since they abandon Bible teaching for “signs and wonders,” sociological techniques, and entertainment. Many attract large congregations by such methods, often on television. But trying to do God’s work in secular ways only produces secular results, and the rapid turnover in many of these ministries shows this to be the case.
- Is the Bible sufficient for *growth in Christian character or godliness*? Many do not believe it. So they offer self-help programs or recommend psychological therapy instead. For change to occur, each of us must read the Bible for ourselves. The Bible must be diligently applied to your life. You must read it privately and with other Christians. **Psalm 1:2-3** says the one who’s delight is in the Law of the Lord,

meditating day and night will be like “a tree planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth his fruit in its season, its leaf also will not wither, and whatsoever he does shall prosper”.

- Is the Bible sufficient for *making an impact on society*? Again, many do not think so. Instead of teaching the Bible, they put their effort into political action groups, lobby for changes on the Supreme Court, or try to elect increasing numbers of Christian legislators. Some of these efforts have some value, but they are not God’s way of changing either people or society. Christians need to stand on the sure foundation of God’s Word and expect God to bless it in transforming human lives.

III. The Bible is to be applied **outwardly** (vs. 19)

Not only do Christians need to believe the Bible and stand on it as a matter of principle, they need to obey it and act on it too, which is the ultimate test of whether any of us actually believe God’s Word or not. This is what Jesus addresses in the next verse when he says in **Matthew 5:19**, “Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Great in the Kingdom

How does one become “great” in heaven? By keeping God’s commandments and teaching them to others. Believers who by the power of the indwelling Spirit (Romans 8:1–14) fulfill the Law will be the big ones in heaven! On the other hand, the one who “breaks one of the least of these commandments and so teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.” Such a person will still be there, but that is all.

Rewards in Heaven

Satan cannot take away our eternal salvation, but he can try to distract us and make us ineffective. So let me say this plainly: there will be rewards in heaven. There will be those who are greater and those who are less.

What is the reward here speaking of? It is a reward of **position**. There will be those in heaven who are given greater responsibility to govern than others. And ultimately, there is coming a day when heaven will come to earth. We will not be floating on clouds in eternity. Heaven is on earth. The new Jerusalem comes out of the clouds to the earth. We are the new Jerusalem.

The Parable of the Wise Steward

And on this new heavenly earth, we will serve God. We see this in the parable of the wise steward. Turn over to Matthew 25:14-30.

The Kingdom of Heaven is “like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away...”

[And basically each some invested their money well. We hear about one of them in verse 21]. “²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have

been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This parable is both encouraging and frightening. If you know Christ today, it is encouraging. What you were given was a gift and you have been giving it away. You are far from perfect, but you have an inward desire to apply God’s Word to your life. You are not perfect, but you are FAITHFUL.

If the Gospel is received by faith in your life it will produce fruit. And God will reward you for that fruit. It will produce holiness in your life, and it will influence the lives of others. Others may even come to a saving knowledge of Christ as a result of your life.

Doing Your Own Thing

Others receive the Gospel, and they go to church and do the Christian activities, but really they live a life of “doing their own thing”. This was the attitude in ancient Israel during the time of the judges, when “everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 21:25). This idea has infected the church. As long as I’ve “prayed the prayer” or as long as I am “in church” I am safe. My dear friend no one who does their own thing enters heaven.

Least in Heaven

Let me address one other thing before moving to our last point. What does it mean for people to be “least in the kingdom of heaven”? Remember Jesus said in **Matthew 5:19**, “Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Teachers

There are teachers who relax various doctrines in the Scriptures. They may preach the Gospel and be truly saved people, but they compromise in various areas of doctrine or holiness, or piety. They may compromise with false teachers in order to get a wider hearing for the Gospel. I’ve seen this all over the place even in the Chicago area. Good men compromise because they think it will get them a larger audience. These men preach the Gospel and are brothers, but there will be a loss of reward.

Sincere, but Misguided Christians

There are sincere Christians who truly are born again who are taught with faulty doctrine, and they lessen the demands of the Christian life. There are sincere Christians that teach that baptism or Bible reading are not important. There are Christians who because of ignorance do not know how to apply God's Word to areas of their life like anger, depression, covetousness, etc.

You think of the many misguided Christians that followed Harold Camping when he predicted the end of the world last year. If we choose to be lax and park our brains at the door and not carefully read our Bibles, we will lose reward.

There are some miserable Christians out there. They love the Lord, and they want to live in the freedom that Christ has purchased with His blood, and they do to some extent, but they are often inwardly and spiritually dry. If they continue in that state and do little about it, they will enter heaven, but they will be "least" in heaven.

Applications

1. *Coasting*. Is your life challenging others to live godly, or are you just "coasting" in your Christian life?

2. *Being Gullible*. We are prone to be lazy or gullible when it comes to God's Word. We must read it for ourselves. Each of us is a priest before God. We are to submit to our elders and church leaders, but we must also be good Bereans who read and compare the Scriptures with what is being taught.

3. *Neglecting the Word*. Are you neglecting the Word? Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that while he had ministered among them, he "did not shrink from declaring to [them] the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). The apostle did not pick and choose what he would teach and exhort. He stressed some things more than others, but he left nothing out. My hope is that by the end of my ministry here I will have at least in principle, preached to you the whole Bible. We preach expositively, book by book so that we miss nothing. Are you doing the same in your personal Bible reading? Are you reading through the whole Bible? I want you to know I weep for those in our congregation who are not reading through the whole Bible. And there are even some of you who are not reading at all. You must read and apply the Bible or you will be called "least in the Kingdom of Heaven". Don't be ashamed at His coming!

IV. The Bible is to be applied inwardly (vs. 20)

Matthew 5:20, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Who Were the Scribes and Pharisees?

The Pharisees numbered about six thousand (6000) in Jesus' time. The word for Pharisees literally means "separated ones". They were the conservatives. They believed in the supernatural. They were sincere people, but they were sincerely misguided. Like so many Christians today, in their zeal, they went beyond God's Word and became legalists. They tried to serve God outwardly, but their heart was far from Him.

Who were the Scribes then? They are not a separate religious group. Scribes were a certain type of Pharisee. They were kind of the seminary professors of the day. They were professional scholars.

A Shocking Requirement

To the average man on the street, the Jews of Jesus' day, this was absolutely shocking! Pharisees were the major religious group of Jesus' day. The scribes and Pharisees made obedience to God's Law the passion of their lives. They calculated that the Law contained 248 commandments and 365 prohibitions, and they tried to keep them *all*. How could anyone surpass that? And how could such righteousness be made a condition to entering the kingdom? Jesus seemed to be saying, "Don't think I have come to make things easier by reducing the demands of the Law. Far from it! In fact, if your righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, you'll never make it!"

What a dilemma! What is the solution? Part of the answer is that the Pharisees' righteousness was not so (to use Daley's word) great. It was merely external. It focused on the ceremonial. Its man-made rules actually were unconscious attempts to reduce the demands of the Law and make it manageable. Those rules insulated them from the Law's piercing heart demands. These men were also self-satisfied. A Pharisee could stand on a corner, look at a publican, and say, "I thank God I am not like that man." Jesus was demanding a deeper obedience- an inner obedience.

Born Again

God desires truth in the "inward parts" as King David said in Psalm 51. How is this possible? Jesus got right to the heart of the issue in John 3 when he was talking to an outwardly righteous, yet inwardly broken Pharisee. Jesus said to Him, "you must be born again" to enter the Kingdom. "You must be born of the Spirit".

What is Jesus talking about here in Matthew 5:20 – what is this righteousness that is required in order to enter the Kingdom?

A Two-fold Righteousness

It really is a two-fold righteousness. It is for you of course to have the righteousness of Christ. In this way, obviously, you exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. You must have received the righteousness of Christ by faith. This makes you right with God positionally. When Jesus said this, He was speaking as kindly as he ever spoke, for he was explaining in the most dramatic terms the impossibility of salvation apart from his grace.

The Righteousness of Christ Positionally

Example: **Zechariah 3:1-4**, "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴ And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." This is a righteousness that Martin Luther called an "alien righteousness".

It is what Paul referred to in Philippians 3:9, he said at the last day, he wanted to be found in Christ, “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith”.

The Righteousness of Christ Practically

Secondly, there is the righteousness of Christ that comes out of your life. Ephesians 2:8-10 states the balance perfectly: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

James said it this way: “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17).

The Reformers said it this way: “Faith alone saves, but faith that saves is never alone”.

And so the true Christian has an inward love for God’s Law. The motive is God centered, not self centered like the Pharisees. The genuine Christian cries out with David, “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).

This righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees is ALL of GRACE. It is all by God’s grace. I think of the promise of the new covenant in Ezekiel 36:25-27, where we find both an inward and outward righteousness.

Ezekiel 36:25-27, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

Do you have both an inward and outward righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees?

A Pastor’s Son

I just spoke with a man who you will meet next month during our new members’ testimonies. He is a pastor’s son from Guatemala. He lived 36 years of his life thinking he was a Christian. He did that which was right on the outside – in church, in public. But privately his life was a mess. His marriage was falling apart. His life was a lie.

One day he heard a message from Paul Washer about regeneration. This man realized he had been depending on a prayer he had prayed as a child, but never examined to see if his heart was truly changed. In a moment he realized he was living a lie, and he called out to God as a humble sinner, and God saved him.

He now had an inward righteousness from Christ. He was cleansed. But he got something that day that changed everything. He still had the same temptations. But now he had a new power – the power of the Spirit.

Now both his inward and outward righteousness would exceed the “righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees”.

The Doorposts of our Hearts

A genuine Christian can’t help but to apply God’s Word inwardly to the doorposts of his heart. In Deuteronomy 6, the children of Israel were commanded to take God’s Word and meditate on it day and night and talk about it in every situation in life. Then

they were told, “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Of course we do that today. We hang Scripture verses all around our houses. But what is even more important is that you hide God’s Word in your heart. You must not only have high standards of holiness on the outside, but live by it on the inside.

Doing Nothing About God’s Word

What kind of Christian are you at home? Remember **James 1:22-25**. James describes a person who is inwardly convicted by God’s Word but does nothing about it. That’s a dangerous place to be. Listen to James 1:22ff: “be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

White Washed Tombs

The Scribes and Pharisees had outwardly righteous lives, but they were inwardly corrupt. Jesus called them “white washed tombs” They were outwardly righteous, but inwardly dead and corrupt.

Conclusion

Spiritual Anorexia

Some of you are barely getting what you need from the Word of God. It’s just enough to survive. You keep going into crisis mode, but you are in denial.

I have a sister who was anorexic for a long time. She kept saying she was fine, but when she sat down she was reminded that she was literally skin and bones. She had almost no muscle, no padding.

In the same way some of you are not reading every jot and tittle of the Scriptures. God has given you a feast, and you are eating crackers.

Dive into the Word! It points to Christ! It is your authority! Apply it amply both inwardly and outwardly! Don’t be a spiritual anorexic. Be healthy. Be not just a hearer, but a doer of the Word!