**THE KINGDOM**

**"The Demand for Superior Righteousness"**

**Matthew 5:17-26**

1. **Jesus differentiates ceremonial righteousness and superior righteousness (vs 20)**

***Ezekiel 36:27-28, "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. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."***

**II**. **Jesus has the authority to demand a superior righteousness because He has fulfilled the law (vs 17-18)**

How Jesus fulfilled the law:

1. Lived up to the intentions of the Law by living a perfect life.
2. Fulfilled prophecies
3. Died on the cross to satisfy the demands of the Law
4. His interpretation of the Old Testament scriptures completes and clarifies God's intent and meaning.

***II Peter 3:13, "But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."***

**III. Jesus defines greatness in the Kingdom of God (vs 19)**

**IV. Jesus describes superior righteousness in relation to anger (vs 21-26)**

 1. Cannot be right with God until you are right with others

 2. Our worship will not be accepted unless we do all we can to live peaceably with others

***Psalm 66:18, “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;***

 3. It is our duty to seek reconciliation when we have injured others