

# Good Enough

## Part Two

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### Matthew 5:17-20

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

For all the Scripture we have read and quoted and all the evidence we have presented, there are still those out there who still imagine that somehow all the good things they have done will cause them to be accepted into heaven.

That somehow, they are actually good enough.

I will acknowledge to you that the Bible has much to say about righteous living.

For example:

### Titus 2:11-12

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

It is true that people who have received salvation and have thus been transformed by the power of God should live exactly as verse 12 states.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that good works, which is the fruit of salvation, is your salvation!

So, back to the original question, “Just how good would you have to be to be good enough?”

As we look at our text this morning, there are numerous points of interest; one especially:

Verse 19 shows us that there are people in the kingdom of heaven who have broken some of God’s commandments.

That fact should be good news for all of us this morning because all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We have already learned from James that one sin makes you guilty.

**James 2:10** For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

That being true, how guilty does that make you?

If you are still somehow hanging on to the idea

that the God Who does not change will somehow change His mind, make an exception for you and consider your works for salvation...in that case, how good is good enough?

## **I. You must be better than a Pharisee.**

*A. In the Bible the Pharisees were best known for being hypocrites,*

### **1. Matthew 23:13-15**

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

2. I suppose you are thinking, “I’m definitely better than that!”

*B. Are you, now?*

**1. Luke 18:9-14**

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

2. Do you fast twice a week?

3. Do you tithe?

4. Yes, some of the Pharisees were hypocrites, but there were others.

5. In case you haven't noticed, the things done wrong will make you famous quicker than what you do right.

**II. Who were the others?**

*A. The less well-known Pharisees:*

1. There was Nicodemus; you know, the one who came to Jesus by night in John chapter three.

2. Nicodemus started out in ignorance, much like each of us, but in the end, he turned out to be a pretty good guy.

3. Nicodemus and his Pharisee buddy Joseph were also disciples of Jesus: they were the ones who cared for the body of Jesus after He was crucified.

#### 4. **John19:38-42**

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

5. These two Pharisees are in heaven today, not because of their good works, but because they got saved; they were, as instructed, born again.

*B. Then there is the most famous Pharisee of all.*

1. Do you know who that is?

2. Listen to his testimony:

#### **Philippians 3:3-9**

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

3. Yes, this is Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles.

4. He is the one who instructed us how to possess greater righteousness than all.

5. This was his great heartache; he writes in Romans 10:

#### **Romans 10:1-4**

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

6. As touching the righteousness of the law blameless...no one could find a legitimate fault in this Pharisee champion, but it wasn't good enough

7. This Pharisee is in heaven today because he possessed by faith, the very righteousness of God himself, that he received as a free gift.

8. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

9. This means that you can receive that same free gift as Paul.

10. **Hebrews 6:1** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

11. That word "repentance" means that **YOU** are going to have to **change your mind!**

12. Quit trying to establish your own righteousness and place your trust in Jesus.

### **III. What will happen when you do?**

*A. God will declare you righteous!*

#### **1. Romans 3:21-26**

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

#### **2. What God declares IS!**

*B. God will impute His own righteousness unto you.*

1. Just like Abraham.

#### **2. Romans 4:20-25**

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

*C. God will re-create your spirit in righteousness.*

1. Spiritually we are dead in trespasses and sins.

**Ephesians 2:1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2. When we finally believe, that is to trust in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as the complete payment for our sins, we, by the power of God, are passed from death to life.

**John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

3. That new life is eternal life! You will be a new creation.

**Ephesians 4:24** And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**Conclusion:**

**Created in righteousness and true holiness! No wonder after I trusted Jesus to save me, I Was never the same again.**