

The Gospel of Matthew - February 2021  
Session 3: Law & Righteousness with Pastor Ruud

**Scripture:**

[Matthew 5:13-20](#), Salt, Light, Law, and Righteousness.

[Matthew 25:14-46](#), Parable of the Talents and Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

**Questions**

1. In Matthew 5:20, Jesus is quoted as saying, “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Later in 9:13, he says, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

How do these statements relate to each other? Is there a tension here? How so or how not? What does it mean for our faith and action and how we conceive of God’s will in Christ?

2. Ponder salt and light. How do you conceive of these metaphors Jesus uses in speaking about those who follow him? How will you be salty and illuminous toward those in need?

3. When Jesus serves bread and wine at his last supper with the disciples, Matthew is the only biblical writer to include the words “for the forgiveness of sins”(26:28). In chapter 18, Peter and Jesus share this exchange, “Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’”

Talk about the role and relationship between forgiveness and righteousness. How big or frequent is God’s forgiveness? How big and/or frequent are we called to be with forgiveness? Is there a limit? For the writer of Matthew, what do you hear as the ultimate goal?