

**I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas:
Grasping Christ's Understanding of Righteousness
Matthew 5:17-48**

Introduction: Isn't it everyone's dream?

The Setting:

The Student:

The Set-Up:

I. Jesus on Scripture 17-19

A. The Fulfillment of Scripture 17

1. What did He mean?
2. What does this imply?

B. The Certainty of Scripture 18

1. What did He mean?
2. What does this imply?

C. The Seriousness of Scripture 19

1. What did He mean?
2. What does this imply?

II. Jesus on Positional Righteousness 20

A. False Righteousness

1. What is righteousness?
2. What is legalism?
3. What is moralism?

B. Flawless Righteousness

1. How is this righteousness obtained?
2. Isn't this a paradox?

III. Jesus on Practical Righteousness 21-6:1

A. What does Jesus condemn? 6:1

1. External Motivation: Self-Pride
2. What does this imply?

B. What does Jesus commend? 5:21-48

1. Internal Motivation: Selflessness
2. What does this imply?
3. What does this look like?
 - a. Managing anger
 - b. Conquering evil thoughts
 - c. Modeling Biblical marriage
 - d. Developing integrity
 - e. Mastering mistreatment
 - f. Loving beyond the norm

Application:

1. How I interpret Scripture is serious business.
2. I must never allow my "personal interpretation" to become equal with Scripture.
3. While my position is certain, I must ask, "Is Christ pleased with my practice?"
4. There is great risk if I commit to live the righteousness that Christ taught.
5. The world is looking for "authentic" Christianity that models Christlikeness and defies hypocrisy.