

Sermon Title: **“FAR SURPASSES”**

Matthew 5:20

- In Jesus’ day, the Law was the standard used to determine how “Good” a Jewish person was
- 1. Scribes were highly trained experts in the interpretation & application of the Law
- 2. “Pharisees” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “Separate”
 - To be a Pharisee meant holding to a level of man-made separateness, which exalted & made them self-righteous
- It’s NOT hard to see why Jesus took such exception to these inadequate, self-reliant, religious leaders
- The Scribes & Pharisees knew the right thing to do, only problem, they deceived themselves into thinking they could perfectly follow the 613 OT Laws & ALL the added oral traditions
 - Like somehow, they could stand before Holy God & in their own merit be viewed acceptable (What audacity!!!)
 - Their form of righteousness was inadequate (their best attempts were still saturated in sin & they still needed salvation)
- The Jewish society (in Jesus’ day) were outward focused
- To the Jewish audience, they would have thought that the good guy was the Rich Guy & the bad guy (the guy steeped in sin) was Lazarus
 - The entire picture, which Jesus painted, would have revolted the Jewish audience
- Two drastically different destinations (a completely unexpected outcome)
- Jesus finishes this story, by alluding to what he was going to do
- The ONLY righteousness that has ANY value is Jesus’
- The Scribes & Pharisees’ righteousness could NEVER be enough
- If you’re banking on your own righteousness – it MUST be way better than the righteousness of the Scribes & Pharisees
- You better be completely flawless, 100% perfect in every tiny area (without a single spot or blemish on your record)
- Your righteousness would have to equal that of Holy God
- The point that Jesus is making is – You CAN’T; I DID; Now, in Me, you ARE!!!