

# *The Importance of Obeying God's Law*

**Appetizer:** John Wesley (evangelist and founder of Methodism) once wrote in his journal, "I am a Bible-bigot. I follow it in all things, both great and small."

Discussion: Do you agree with John Wesley's statement? Should everything the Bible says still be followed today? Why or why not?

Reflection: If the Old Testament did not exist, what would be missing in your knowledge of God?

**Main Course:** Read Matthew 5:17-20.

1. This passage naturally divides into two parts, verses 17-18 and verses 19-20. What does each part emphasize?
2. Why might some people have thought that Jesus came to abolish the Law and the Prophets (v. 17)?
3. The Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) consist of doctrine, prophecy and ethical precepts. In what sense has Jesus fulfilled each of these (v, 17)?
4. How does Jesus emphasize his high view of Old Testament Scripture (vv.17-18)?
5. How will our response to the Law determine our status in the kingdom of heaven (v. 19)?
6. How can our righteousness possibly surpass the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law (v. 20)?
7. Some people claim that Jesus abolished the Law for the Christian and that we are only responsible for obeying the "law of love." Respond to this view in light of Jesus' words in this passage.
8. How should you study and apply the Old Testament Law today?
9. How can Jesus' words strengthen our confidence in Scripture?

**Dessert:** Which of the Ten Commandments (found in Exodus 20:1-17) have you been able to keep and which ones do you struggle with? Ask for God's help in prayer.