



Questions for Application for the Week of January 27, 2014
The Old Testament & Me: Jesus Has An Expectation For His People
Matthew 5:17-20

1. Jesus did not come to abolish the Old Testament but to fulfill it. Consequently, he is the one who can interpret it and teach us perfectly about the life God desires for us. For many of his first listeners, they could not recalibrate their expectations or let go of previously held convictions. How tender is your heart to God growing and leading you and how can you be confident in your answer?

2. The Old Testament and its purposes still remain valid, even though some of what it called for is no longer necessary having been fulfilled in Christ. This being true, what kind of attention should we give to the Old Testament in our personal reading and study? What is it about the Old Testament that makes it so daunting for some and how does Matthew 5:18 encourage us to persevere?

3. Far from lowering the bar on discipleship, Jesus calls his followers to give attention to even the “least of” the commandments in the Old Testament. In the next twenty-eight verses (Matthew 5:21-48) Jesus will give six examples of what the Old Testament looked forward to and call his followers to greater faithfulness to it. Reading over the six examples, which (if any) do you suspect will be challenging for you? Ask God that he will prepare your heart for what he wants to do.

4. In contrast to the scribes and the Pharisees whose pattern of living was meticulously faithful but their hearts hard and unrepentant, Jesus calls us to a greater righteousness that begins with a heart change. This inside-out transformation is to be the motivation for all that we do. In what ways does this inside-out distinction change how many view the Christian life and how should it encourage you about your walk with him?