

REAL RIGHTEOUSNESS MATTHEW 5:17-30

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed

adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy built a successful career finishing the sentence **“You might be a Redneck if...”**

Here are a few examples of his humor... You might be a Redneck if... *You consider a set of matching luggage two shopping bags from the same store...*

Or you think the last words of the Star Spangled Banner are *“Gentlemen, start your engines.”...*

You might be a Redneck if... *You think a stock tip is advice on worming your hogs... Or you’ve been married three times and still have the same in-laws...*

Or you might be a Redneck if... *you think Taco Bell is the Mexican Phone Company. You get the idea...*

Well, this morning I want to begin by finishing a different sentence... **You might be a Pharisee if...**

You might be *a Pharisee* if... *You consider your own church’s membership roll the Lamb’s Book Of Life...*

Or you believe **suspicion** is a spiritual gift and that **misery** is a fruit of the Spirit... Or you might be a Pharisee if... *every time something changes, you say, “The old way was better.” Or you believe the Lord has given you the ministry of correcting*

other people...

Or you might be a Pharisee if... You're disgusted by the moral filth that is playing on your own DVD player.

Or you limit your bar-hopping on Saturday night, so you won't be late for usher duty on Sunday morning...

Or you might be a Pharisee if... you forbid your kids from playing violent video games, while you watch the Rambo marathon on television... Or you despise the dirty language in rap music, but the four letter words Blake Shelton uses in his lyrics just add color...

Or you might be a Pharisee if... you worry about your teenage daughter sleeping around on the weekends you go out of town with your *'male friend'*...

Or you might be a Pharisee if... you preach a sermon on Pharisee-ism and don't admit the same warning applies to you... We all, *might be a Pharisee*...

The big verse in this morning's passage is verse 20.

What Jesus utters in this verse has the effect of a stun gun. He tazes His disciples. Jesus stops them in their tracks, and makes them re-evaluate everything...

Jesus' words in verse 20 hit like a thunderclap, **"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."**

Actually, if you charted the Sermon on the Mount on a graph, chapter 5:20 would be the summit, the peak of the curve. This verse is the summation of the sermon.

And this was a staggering statement in the ears of the people who heard Jesus that day. In their minds, no one was as righteous, or as holy, as a Pharisee.

The Jews in Jesus' day had a saying, "If only two people were allowed into heaven, one would be a scribe and one would be a Pharisee." Both the scribes and Pharisees were Jews who majored on God's Law.

Both these groups were in the business of legalism.

The scribes were handlers of the text. They copied it, studied it, interpreted it - and they were meticulous.

They invested years and painstaking labor to copy the OT Scriptures. They fashioned themselves as legal experts. They were the authority on what the Law said.

The Pharisees applied the Law to life. They were a Jewish sect renown for their zeal and disciplined lifestyle. The Pharisees were legalists on steroids.

The Jews read in the Bible that they were forbidden to work on the Sabbath. *But what constitutes work?*

They came up with all kinds of definitions... If you carried a load on the Sabbath Day that was work, *but how heavy was a load?* And they had an answer...

It was written, "A load is equal to the weight of a fig, enough wine for mixing in a goblet, milk enough for one swallow, honey enough to put on a wound, oil enough to anoint a small part of the body, water enough to moisten an eye patch, paper enough to write a note, ink enough to write two letters, a reed big enough to make a pen..."

Anything equal to the list above, or a fraction heavier, and it was sinful to carry.

Some zealous Pharisees said you were carrying a load - *thus sinning* - if you wore

false teeth, or strapped on an artificial leg, or picked up a child on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees also felt it was work to heal on the Sabbath Day. You could keep a sick or injured person from getting worse, but you couldn't do anything to promote his healing or improve his condition.

It was kosher to spit on the Sabbath, as long as you didn't scuff the spit with your sandal - then you'd be plowing the soil - *working* when you should be *resting!*

And on and on this went. Rules to explain the rules. Endless regulations on top of endless regulations.

It's been said of America's legal system, "[We have 35 million laws trying to enforce 10 commandments.](#)" As for the Pharisees that was literally no exaggeration!

And here was their problem... their zeal for the Law, their will to obey, was only about outward compliance. [They were into right actions, but ignored right attitudes.](#)

No one was better at keeping *the letter of the Law* than the Pharisees, but they lost touch with *the spirit of the Law*. They were stringent in interpreting its words, but totally out of touch with the intent of those words.

It reminds me of Matthew 26:41. The verse reads, "[The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.](#)"

A group of linguists designed a computer program to translated English into Russian. But when Matthew 26:41 was inputted, the Russian translation read, "[The whiskey is agreeable, but the meat has gone bad.](#)"

That might be the literal, wooden translation, but it's miles away from what the verse really means. And this is what had happened to the Pharisee's interpretation.

They understood God's Law in a stilted, mechanical manner, but they lost *the intent, the essence* of what God was saying to them. They could parse the terms and grammar, but they failed to discern God's heart.

In Exodus 34:27, when the Law was first given to Moses, God told him, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." Notice, God's covenant with Israel wasn't just based on *the literal words*, it was according to *the original intent* behind those words.

The Amplified Version renders Exodus 34:27, "Write these words, for after the purpose and character of these words I have made a covenant with you."

Over the centuries the Jews held tenaciously to *the letter of the Law*, but it didn't take long for them to lose *the tenor of the Law*... It's like recalling the lyrics, but forgetting the tune. If all you have are the words, but no melody - you can hardly say you're singing the song.

It's interesting, the winsome way Jesus lived, and the loving words He spoke, were so contrary to what the people saw and heard from the Pharisees it tempted them to think that Jesus might be against the Law.

The Pharisees were so dry - their deeds so sterile - *how could the two fruits come from the same tree?*

You saw the joy Jesus got from the things of God. His life was *a dance*. Then you saw the Pharisees toil and labor in pursuit of God. Their life was *a drudgery*.

How could they both be serving the same God?

This is why Jesus makes clear in verses 17, "Do not think that I came to destroy the

Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Jesus wasn’t an enemy of the Law. *Why would He be?* The OT Law spoke of Him. In Hebrews 10:7 He says, *“In the volume of the book it is written of Me - to do Your will, O God.”*

God’s Law was given to accomplish two purposes... **to exposed our sin and to point us to the Savior.**

Rather than destroy or oppose the Law Jesus came to fulfill its purpose. His life and death peeled back the onion, and got to the heart of what the Law intended.

On the cross Jesus displayed the severity of our sin!

Realize, all that Jesus suffered, you deserved! *How can you see the cross of Christ and not be moved?*

Isaiah says, *“He was bruised for our iniquity! He was wounded for our transgressions.”* *Do you feel the pointed steel touch your wrists and feet?* The nails that damaged His innocent flesh were meant for us...

Everything written in the OT Law was intended to culminate at the cross: *I’ve sinned. God is holy. I can’t reach God on my own. My sin demands a sacrifice.*

At the cross I find **forgiveness** and **righteousness**.

I failed, *but Jesus had my back*. The stripes on His back now prove it... And **I fell**, I fell short of what God required, *but Jesus rose again*, and I now stand in His rightness. His Spirit is in me making up the difference.

The Law teaches me that **I failed** and **I fell**. I sinned and fell short of His glory - yet Jesus forgave me and makes me right with God. He puts His goodness in me.

Jesus didn’t come to work against the Law, but to reveal the big picture and to fulfill

it's true purpose.

He says in verse 18, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

The “*jot*” or the Hebrew “*yod*” was the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It looked like our apostrophe.

A “*tittle*” was the smallest stroke on the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It was a little hook.

And Jesus is promising that all the Word of God will be fulfilled - down to its smallest, minutest details.

The Bible can be trusted. You can take God's Word to the bank. You should start today, *drawing on His promises and living by His principles*. As Jesus said in John 10:35, “The Scripture cannot be broken.” Jesus didn't come to violate Scripture, but to prove it right.

For He says in verse 19, *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*” What Jesus taught, and how He lived, never contradicted God's intentions.

He would never “*fiddle with a tittle*” - *nor should we*.

Jesus just got to the point - He cut to the chase...

The OT Law consisted of 613 commandments - not just ten. There were 248 positive commands, or “*The Do's*” - and 365 negative commands or “*The Don'ts*.”

There was a “**Shall not**” for every day of the year!

And Jesus didn't deny any of those commands, He just understood they all could be boiled down into two.

One day a Pharisee asked Him, “**Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?**” Jesus replied, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**”

God wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. The first tablet taught us *how to love God*. The second tablet, *how to love our neighbor as ourselves*.

In fact, all 613 laws combined paint a picture of what love looks like - *love for God and love for others*.

The scribes and the Pharisees, *both then and now*, made religion far too complicated. According to the legalist there were more stipulations and regulations to pleasing God than there are rules in the IRS tax code.

Jesus though, makes it simple. **Real righteousness** is all about love. *Love for God and for your neighbor*.

This is why Jesus says in verse 20, “***unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.***” Real righteousness is more than mere *compliance to the law* - it's *love from the heart*.

Romans 5:5 says of the Christian, “**The love of God has been poured out in our**

hearts by the Holy Spirit.”

What the scribes and Pharisees tried to manufacture through performance, Jesus pours out to us by His Holy Spirit. *Real righteousness* is a gift of God's grace.

Before God expects us to act in loving ways He tunes our hearts to the music. He puts His love in us.

The Law *commands love*, but it doesn't *impart love*.

It's through grace that God pours out His love.

It's been said, “To work and run the law commands, yet gives me neither feet nor hands. Better news the Gospel brings, it bids me fly, then gives me wings.”

The Pharisees were like a musician with the sheet music. He navigates the notes, and keeps the beat, but he plays the piece mechanically. Technically, he's okay, but *he lacks emotion - he has no feel for the score*.

He certainly doesn't capture the heart of the music.

And it's true in the Christian life, you can play all the right notes. *Morally, technically*, you've kept the beat.

But if there's no love for God, or for others - if your deeds are all performance *with no passion* - you can't really say you've played what the Composer intended.

There's more to pleasing God than mere *conformity*.

Say you're a pretty good guy. You tithe your check, attend your church, mind your own business, you might even drop a twenty in the Salvation Army kettle...

You live a good life - but a *good life* is not necessarily a *Christian life*. The Pharisees were good guys, and they lived good lives, but it wasn't enough to get them into

God's kingdom. *Real righteousness* is a miracle - **it's the heart of God planted in the heart of man.**

Listen to Jesus in verse 21. Here He contrasts **real righteousness** - *His righteousness* - with that of the scribes and Pharisees, “**You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’**”

Of course, the Pharisees had never murdered anyone! They were innocent of any sort of bloody, ugly violence... “**But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.**” Jesus says, “*Not so fast. Think again...*”

Notice first, according to Jesus not all anger is sin. There is a righteous anger. Some anger is justifiable.

Hey, Jesus got angry. He got angry at the Jews making a buck off God. He tossed tables and cleansed the Temple. When Jesus got angry it was always for *the right reason, at the right time, and in the right way.*

Jesus got angry at the Pharisees when they opposed His healing on the Sabbath. He got mad whenever someone put *law above love, and ritual above people.*

But here Jesus speaks of a man who gets angry at his brother “***without a cause.***” He points to a proud man who brags he's never murdered another human.

Yet Jesus informs us that in the eyes of God the unjustified anger that's been smoldering in this man's heart is the spiritual equivalent of cold-blooded murder.

How can you be proud that you haven't done the **deed**, while the **seed** is growing

inside you?

So you've never pulled the trigger. We'll find no powder residue or medal filings on your hands - but your anger has blown up at your wife and kids. If every angry outburst had murdered someone, your morning commute last week would've resulted in a killing spree.

Here Jesus confronts us all with a startling truth.' Beneath our veneer of respectability - underneath our fear of punishment - lurks a seed of anger that if ever allowed to blossom fully, would turn violent.

It would result in a fist fight. We'd strangle someone.

At the core of man's evil heart there's not much difference between the syrupy sweet Sunday School teacher and the sinister, serial killer. It's shocking to consider, but there's a little bit of Ted Bundy in all of us.

It reminds me of the man who was bitten by a dog.

The doctor informed the victim he had rabies. The man pulls out a piece of paper and starts to write.

The doctor says, "You don't need to write out a will. You're not going to die. We've got medicines that can treat rabies." The fellow answered him, "*I'm not writing a will, I'm just jotting down the names of people I'd like to bite.*" An unjustified anger, not just murder, is a sin.

But Jesus goes on to describe how *this seed of anger* can escalate in our heart, "Whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

Anger is like the gasoline you purchase at the pumps. It comes in different grades, or octane levels.

Our anger has various intensities.

It reminds of the father who wanted to warn his hot-tempered son, “Be careful, your anger can escalate.”

He offered an illustration. The dad picked up a phone and dialed a random number. He said, “Can I speak to Melvin?” The man on the other end was annoyed by the interruption, but said there was no Melvin there.

Dad hung up, then redialed the same number. He said, “Can I speak to Melvin?” This time the guy on the other end got mad. He scolded the caller for being stupid enough to make the same mistake twice.

The third time Dad dialed the same number again. He said, “Hi, I’m Melvin, do I have any messages?”

You can imagine the explosion that occurred. But the dad had proven his point...
Anger can escalate.

In verse 22 Jesus describes anger’s progression...

There’s **a suppressed anger**, or what He calls “**anger without a cause.**” This is an illicit anger we hold on to, and nurture, and let smolder below the surface.

Then there’s **an explosive anger**. This is anger that lashes out. It shouts “*Raca!*” This was Aramaic slang for “**empty-headed**” - “**idiot.**” It’s an inflammatory insult.

Which boils over into **a premeditated anger**. “*You fool*” was more than just an insult. It was a calculated, vengeful attack. This was character assassination.

Once the driver of a tractor-trailer stopped to eat lunch at a roadside cafe. Three Hell's Angels entered the room and tried to pick a fight with the man.

The trucker said nothing. He quietly finished his lunch, paid his bill, and then walked out of the diner.

One of the rough guys laughed and mocked him to the waitress, "*That little fellow sure isn't much of a man.*" She replied, "No, and he's not much of a truck driver either, he just ran over three motorcycles in the parking lot." A *suppressed anger*, turned *explosive*, and resulted in a *premeditated* attack by an angry trucker.

This is what happens to an unchecked anger. It picks up steam. It escalates. Listen to the end result of this anger - according to Jesus, "**(you) shall be in danger of hell fire.**" The consequences of an unchecked anger aren't just *social and legal*, but *spiritual and eternal*.

On June 9, 1980 on a hot, steamy night in Miami, Florida, the body of Judy Bucknell was found murdered in her apartment. As it turns out, seven times her estranged boyfriend thrust his knife into Judy's body.

Before he was arrested, the killer had actually written of his anger... "**It starts off as a drip. A small puddle that's easily mopped up so you ignore it. The next time you've got a trickle and so forth... until pretty soon your toting buckets and wondering how you let it go so far.**"

It's the gradualness of it that gets you. The constant pressure. By the time you realize what's happening, it's too late. It's a strange emotion this thing called hatred."

So, *what do you do with an anger that's gotten out-of-control?* In fact, here's a better question, *what do you do with an anger before it gets out-of-control?*

Jesus tells us in verses 23, “**Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar...**” Here’s the first step in dealing with anger... **Be in the habit of coming to the altar.**

Worship God. Admit you need Him. Come before Him. Drink deeply of His love for you. The presence of God has a way of *diffusing* and *disarming* any anger.

As I’ve said, *God changes our hearts.*

Verse 23 continues, if you “**remember that your brother has something against you...**” If while you’re at the altar, God brings an issue to your mind - an unresolved conflict between you and another person...

And I don’t think this happens accidentally.

It requires that you be concerned for others. That you don’t just care about yourself, but you love people.

Once a Rabbi was walking down the street, just back from his Torah school. He was feeling very pompous and proud, when a poor beggar got in his way.

The Rabbi went into a rage. “***You Raca! How ugly you are. Are all the men of your town as ugly as you?***”

The beggar calmly answered the Rabbi, “***That I do not know, but go and tell the Maker who created me how ugly is the creature He has made...***”

And it’s at the altar - in God’s presence - that we learn to see folks as God sees them, as special to Him.

When we do, we're less likely to get angry!

Again, **be in the habit of coming to the altar...**

For *real righteousness* isn't produced on our own. It happens only when the Holy Spirit pours out the love of Jesus into our hearts. *And that happens at the altar...*

Come to the altar... Be concerned about others...

Then, **"leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way."** It's a mockery to offer a gift to God, when what will really pleases Him is to repair the rift between you and your brother. Verse 24, **"First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."**

Life is too short to spend it angry, or have someone angry at you... *Pick up the phone. Send an email. Better yet, write a letter. It'll show them you care.*

Sure that person harmed *you*, but it takes *two to tango*. It's safe to say you didn't handle it all perfectly.

Humble yourself. You go to the person you offended, and apologize for your part in the drama. Don't wait on them - you take the initiative... *And do it today!*

Jesus tells us in verse 25, **"Agree with your adversary quickly..."** As Paul put it, **"Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath."** Let's keep short accounts.

Don't wait another day. There's a Latin proverb, **"He who goes to bed angry has the devil for a bed-fellow."**

In verse 25, Jesus tells us to deal with our anger before God deals with us. **"Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison."**

Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.” Unresolved anger will become a prison in more ways than one.

Deal with your anger, or it'll eat you alive. It'll destroy you one penny at a time. You'll lose all your **sense!**

Be in the habit of coming to the altar...

Be concerned for other people...

Take the initiative and apologize...

And do it quickly, before you pay the price...

Here's the Master's point, **real righteousness** is a matter of the heart, so pay attention to your heart. *How you love God, and how you love your neighbor...*

And it's not just anger He's concerned about...

Jesus says in verse 27, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” The same guy who was proud of the fact he wasn't a murderer, was proud he'd been faithful to his spouse, *but was he really? What is real righteousness?*

I hope we see, true righteousness isn't just outward conformity, it's a transformed life. It's a change of heart.

A real relationship with God is more than turning over a new leaf - it's not just coming to church - or doing right things... It's deeper. Love burrows it's way into my heart of hearts. It changes how I feel, and how I think, and how I see others - even

those of the opposite sex.

It's not an act... it's a work of God's Spirit in me.

Again, Jesus is saying we can't be proud we haven't done the *deed*, when the *seed* is still lurking inside us.

There's an old saying, "Promiscuity begins in the head, long before it ends in the bed." *And it's so true.*

Certainly, *the deed* has greater consequences than *the seed*. *The deed* might contract a venereal disease or bust up a home. No other human might know about *the seed* - but to God *the fruit* and *the root* are one.

And Jesus is saying that we can't be content until we're living a righteousness that impacts *the root*, not just *the fruit*. **Real righteousness effects the heart!**

Notice, just as Jesus says there's a *righteous anger*, He also says there's a difference between "a look" and "a lust." "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her..."

Not every look is necessarily a lust. There is an *innocent look* - a *casual glance*. You see a pretty girl... think, "Yep Lord, that's a pretty girl" - then move on...

But it's another thing **to look to lust.**

This is *the lingering gaze*, *the fixating focus*, *the savoring stare* - the pulse rate rises - the imagination takes the image and processes it for selfish purposes.

It reminds me of two monks standing by the river.

A gorgeous, young woman approaches them and explains she needs to cross the stream. One of the monks picks her up, lays her over his shoulder, carries her

across, and sits her down. She appreciates his kindness, but his friend and fellow monk are appalled!

Later his friend rebukes him, *“As monks, we’ve taken a vow to never look on a woman, let alone touch her body. At the river today you did both.”* The first monk said, *“My brother, I put that woman down on the other side of the river. You’re still carrying her in your mind.”*

And it’s not just men who lust after women...

There’s a housewife who fantasizes about what it would be like with a man who cared more about her... or was more romantic... or who made more money...

Nick Saban has coached the Alabama Crimson Tide to unprecedented success. Recently, Nick asked his wife, *“Sweetheart, in your wildest dreams did you ever think we would achieve all this.”* His wife, Terry, replied, *“Honey I’m sorry, but you’re not in my wildest dreams.”*

Ladies, real righteousness makes sure your wildest dreams feature your husband and not some other man.

Several weeks ago, I dealt with verses 29-30, and talked about four helps in overcoming sexual sin...

1) **Recognize the problem.** If your right eye... or right hand *causes* you to sin... what’s *the underlying cause*?

2) **Radically repent.** Cut it off... pluck it out... Take decisive action to distance yourself from *the cause*.

3) **Recruit some help.** You won’t cut it off by yourself.

4) **Rethink your priorities.** A lot is at stake. It's better to lose a limb than throw away what really matters.

I encourage you to go back and listen to that lesson.

But here's this AM's point, *real righteousness* isn't a deed done, or moral discipline, or religious fervor. It's not some religious badge I pridefully wear on my lapel.

It goes deeper. *Below the lapel.* It's about my heart.

I can play the notes, but do I have the passion?

When it came to righteousness everyone thought the scribes and Pharisees had an impressive resume - *except Jesus.* He could see through their hypocrisy.

There was no love in their obedience - no passion in their performance - no emotion in their devotion.

Outwardly, all their ducks were in a row, but inwardly, spiritually, the Pharisees were nothing but quacks.

That's why Jesus says, **“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”** *Real righteousness* is about love and heart...

Let me try this one more time... **You might be a Pharisee if...** you're proud of all you've done for God, *but haven't asked God to do His work in you!*

Remember, real righteousness is a miracle - a miracle in us - **the heart of God implanted in our heart.**