



JESUS TEACHES

Chris looked at the C-minus on his book report and the note from his teacher.

The note read: "What happened? Have one of your parents sign this report and return it to me in the morning." Chris was trying to think of what he was going to say to his father.

At first Chris was angry. He had never gotten a C-minus on anything before. He had followed the directions exactly. The teacher had told students to write a 300-word essay about one of the books on the class reading list. He had done just that. He had picked a book from the reading list. He had written 300 words about it.

Later that evening, Chris waited quietly while his father read his report and the teacher's note. What would his father do? What would he say? Would he be mad? Chris started to get angry again at the teacher. If he lost his video game privileges because of this, it would be all her fault.

"You know, Chris," Dad said, "if this was the best you were able to write, I would be proud of your grade. But I have to ask you, are you proud of this report?"

The question surprised Chris. All at once he couldn't be angry with the teacher anymore. Rather, he was angry with himself. "No, I'm not. I knew I had to write that report but I wanted to go camping with Jonah and Brendan so I just wrote anything that came into my head until I had written 300 words."

Read Matthew 5:17-37 and then close your Bible. See if you can answer each of the following questions about the reading and the information your teacher has shared with you about the reading.

1. In this Gospel reading, what is Jesus teaching his followers? (See v. 17.)

ABOUT THE LAW
ABOUT THE COMMANDMENTS AND
SWEARING OATHS
BOTH OF THESE

2. In this Gospel reading, to what does the word *Law* refer? (See v. 17-19)

RULES OF THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT
RULES OF THE TEMPLE
THE COMMANDMENTS

3. How is it that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law?

HE REVEALS GOD'S TRUE MEANING OF
THE LAW
HE ALWAYS DOES EXACTLY WHAT THE LAW
COMMANDS
HE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE
THE LAW

4. What does *being righteous* mean?

ALWAYS TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING
NEVER MAKING A MISTAKE
FOLLOWING THE LETTER OF THE LAW

5. What does the *letter of the Law* mean?

THE LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE
WORDS
A NARROW UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORDS
BOTH OF THESE

6. What does the word *raqa* mean?

IMBECILE
THIEF
CRIMINAL

ABOUT THE LAW

**7. What does Jesus say the spirit of the Law includes?
(See v. 21-24.)**

- NOT GETTING ANGRY WITH OTHERS
- RESPECTING OTHERS, NOT CALLING THEM NAMES
- RESOLVING PROBLEMS WITH OTHERS
- ALL OF THESE

**8. Jesus tells his followers never to swear by what?
(See v. 33-37.)**

- HEAVEN, THE EARTH, OR JERUSALEM
- EAST OR NORTH OR WEST OR SOUTH
- ON ANYONE'S LIFE

**9. Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to swear oaths?
(See v. 37.)**

- IF YOU SWEAR AND THEN LIE, YOU GET ARRESTED
- IF YOU ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH, SWEARING IS
NOT NECESSARY
- OATHS ARE FROM THE EVIL ONE

**10. When Chris wrote his book report, he paid
attention only to what?**

- THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW
- THE LETTER OF THE LAW
- HIS VIDEO GAMES

11. Why was Chris's father disappointed?

- CHRIS DID ONLY MINIMUM WORK TO
COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT
- CHRIS COPIED ANOTHER STUDENT'S
REPORT
- CHRIS LIED ABOUT HIS GRADE

Chris's dad picked up a pen and signed Chris's paper. "I tell you what, Chris. I want you to rewrite this book report in the spirit of the law... the way Jesus would expect you to do the report. Do more than just follow the rules."

Chris took the paper from his father. "Thanks, Dad. I'm going to do more than what I have to do this time. I promise to do my best."

**Jesus teaches us to go
beyond the words of the
Law, to follow the Law with
a heart of love.**

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Answers: 1. both of these 2. the Commandments
3. he reveals God's true meaning of the Law
4. always trying to do the right thing 5. both of these
6. imbecile 7. all of these 8. heaven, the earth, or
Jerusalem 9. if you always tell the truth, swearing is
not necessary 10. the letter of the Law 11. Chris did
only minimum work to complete his assignment

