**GOD’S STORY – YOUR STORY**

**SESSION 3**

**Changing the Rules**

Readings

Exodus 20:1-17

Matthew 5

Matthew 6

Matthew 7

Luke 5:17-32

Luke 6:17-49

Jesus grew up in an established Jewish tradition. His ministry and life were viewed through the beliefs and expectations of each political/religious faction active in Judah at the time.

The Law

The Law is the authority from which the teachers spoke.

The Oral Tradition

The Pharisees

Controversy over the idea of Resurrection

The Sadducees

Hope for a Conquering Messiah

Zealots believed that only God had the right to rule over the Jews and that the rule of Rome must be ended.

The Sermon on the Mount

The Beatitudes

Jesus says that he comes to fulfill the Law not to do away with it.

Jesus makes the Law significantly more difficult.

Jesus offends the pious elements of the community.

Jesus offends the wealthy.

Jesus taught with authority. This “astounds” the crowds.

Jesus offends the religious leaders

Jesus forgives sins.

Telling the paralyzed man that his sins are forgiven.

Jesus is letting the crowd know that he has the authority to forgive sins.

Jesus associates with tax collectors, prostitutes, and other “undesirable” members of the community.

Jesus is not what anyone expected.

He does nothing to seek political power and does not seem at all interested in getting rid of the Romans.

Jesus does not observe the Law in the way both the Pharisees and the Sadducees expect a religious leader to follow the Law.

Jesus makes claims and does things that only God can do.

**Looking ahead:**

Matthew 21:23-27

Matthew 22:34-40

John 11:45-53