



## JESUS, PART 3: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

If you aren't religious or you gave up religion, you probably had good reason to walk away or stay away. You're a reasonable person, and there are plenty of good reasons to reject religion. But reconsider Jesus. He wasn't an extension of the old religion. He came to introduce something brand new.

**THE BIG IDEA:** Jesus did not come to continue something. He came to replace something.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when science, culture, philosophy, or your own experiences caused you to doubt your faith. How did you respond?
2. What are some ways people try to earn their way into right standing with God, rather than trusting in what Jesus has already done for them? Do you ever catch yourself striving to earn God's approval? If so, how?
3. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 5:3–12.](#)  
*<sup>3</sup> “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. <sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. <sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. [Matthew 5:3-12 \(NLT\)](#)”*
4. In what ways do these verses challenge Old Testament teaching? In what ways do these upside-down ways challenge our cultural values?
5. During the message, Chris said, “Jesus replaced all that Moses and Solomon put in place. Christianity can stand on its own two nail-scarred resurrection feet.” What implications does that have for the way you view Christianity or your relationship with God?
6. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 7:12.](#)  
*“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” [Matthew 7:12 \(NLT\)](#)”*
7. What does that reveal about God's character and values? How does it make your faith less complicated but more demanding?
8. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 28:18-20.](#)  
*Jesus came and told his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” [Matthew 28:18-20 \(NIV\)](#)”*
9. What do you think Jesus was referring to when he said, “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded”?

### MOVING FORWARD

Jesus came to fulfill the old and introduce new. The Old Covenant was a divinely created and scripted cocoon from which God's love was revealed to the world. That was the purpose of God's relationship with Israel. The New Covenant is the full expression of that love for the entire world. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Follow him. That's the purpose of God's relationship with you.

## WEEKLY READING

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7.