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### *Righteousness and identity formation in the Sermon on the Mount*

*FP Viljoen*

#### Abstract

Righteousness is an important term in the first gospel and has a significant concentration in the Sermon on the Mount. The main point of this article is that the first gospel has a community building function. Matthew intentionally uses the Sermon on the Mount as an instrument to define the identity of his community. Though righteousness can be argued that Matthew mainly uses it in an ethical sense. By righteousness Matthew refers to the proper behavior for his community. Commitment to Jesus forms the central focus of the community's identity. Their doing the will of God as defined and interpreted by Jesus. Doing the will of God in such a manner is what distinguishes this community. Thus they would surpass the righteousness of the scribes and

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