

Morning Sermon March 29, 2020
"Jesus and the Law" Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 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. 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. ²⁰ 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. Matthew 5:17–20 (NKJV)

I. Jesus not a law breaker –

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. Matthew 5:17

1. Why would anyone think Jesus was a law breaker?

A. Some were MAD thinking Jesus was destroying the law –
Because Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, because He offered them mercy and forgiveness, the scribes and Pharisees who thought they were keeping the law, looked upon Jesus as if He was breaking it

¹⁰ Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Matthew 9:10–13 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ² "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." Matthew 15:1–2 (NKJV)

See Jesus response –

³ He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who

curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' ⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me *is a gift to God*"—⁶ then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷ Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ⁸ 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁹ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' " Matthew 15:3–9 (NKJV)

See some thought Jesus was breaking the law because He was not, or His disciples were not, keeping their tradition ...

B. Others were GLAD thinking Jesus was destroying the law -

"O free from the law, O blessed condition
I can sin as I please, and still have remission!"
Sinclair Ferguson

6 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Romans 6:1 (NKJV)

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Romans 6:2 (NKJV)

These say, Yes! Or Why not! Yes, even if they don't say it with their mouth, their flesh cries Yes, sin, sin, sin, grace will still win! Grace becomes a license to sin!

But Jesus did not come to destroy the law, He came to fulfil it! He came to fulfil the Law and the Prophets ...

2. Jesus is a Law Fulfiler! How does Jesus fulfil the law?

πληρώ^f: to give the true or complete meaning to something—'to give the true meaning to, to provide the real significance of.' οὐκ ἤλθον καταλῦσαι ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι 'I did not come to destroy but to give true meaning to' Mt 5:17 Louw & Nida Greek / English Lexicon

A coloring book gives only lines... Color them in! Giving them flesh and life is fulfilling!

II. Jesus assures us the Law continues until fulfilled -
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. Matthew 5:18

1. *The Bible, God's Word is not obsolete, it has not been done away with -*

A. *Some parts have been fulfilled -*

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

We no longer sacrifice lambs, because Christ is the Lamb of God all the other lambs pointed to, for the same reason the Passover has been replaced by the Lord's Supper -

B. *Other parts were fulfilled in Christ's perfect obedience, yet are still fulfilled even and also in us -*

⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:4 (NKJV)

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10 (NKJV)

III. Let us not be bad teachers -

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. Matthew 5:19

1. *Breaking the Law makes you "least" at best*

2. *You don't have to be a preacher to be a law-breaking teacher*
3. *Doing and teaching the Law makes you the greatest in God's Kingdom*

IV. Let us aim for excellent, exceeding righteousness -
²⁰ 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. Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)

1. *The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees seemed sufficient but it was not -*

A. *External but not internal, it was not a heart righteousness -*
²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:27-28 (NKJV)

B. *It was a works righteousness and without the New Birth, there was no power of God with it -*

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."...

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.... ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' John 3:3; :5 & :7 (NKJV)

2. *We can exceed this righteousness because:*

A. *We have Christ's righteousness imputed to us -*

⁵ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

God sees me Just-as-if-I'd never sinned!

B. *We live righteous lives because empowered by God's Spirit -*
¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:12-15 (NKJV)

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