THE F1RST SERMON

THEBIBLELAB

03

YES&NO

1. I am a righteous person.

2. My righteousness surpasses most of the pastors I've seen.

3. If you set aside any of the 10 Commandments, and lead others to do the same, your status in heaven is demoted.

4. There are elements of the 10 Commandments that changed when Jesus was nailed to the cross.

5. You can be completely loyal to God's teachings and still be lost.

DIG DEEP

READ: Matthew 5:17-19 (NIV)
17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

∞ How does all of this talk about the Law sound unlike the Jesus we see elsewhere?

» Why do you think Jesus felt he must speak so firmly about the Law?

∞ From God's perspective, what is the importance and function of the Law?

» The word καταλῦσαι (katalusai) means to annul, and the word πληρῶσαι (plerósai) means to consummate them [*the Law*].

« How does this remind us of the relational aspects of the 10 Commandments when they were given at Sinai?

« Some claim that Christ's sacrifice did away with the Law. How does Jesus' words here address that?

∞ Until heaven and earth disappear...

» The word ἰῶτα (iota or jot [yod]) means the smallest letter, and the word κεραία (keraía or tittle) means the horns on the Hebrew letters that differentiate them from similar ones.

‡ Why would God not want a single stroke of the pen changed in the Law?

NOTES

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DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

READ: Matthew 5:20 (NIV)
20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

∞ This statement is the turning point of the Sermon on the Mount (and of Christ's relationship with the religious leadership).

° The word περισσεύσῃ πλεῖον (perisseuse pleion) means to overflow the banks of a river.

» What do you think Jesus meant by this? How can your righteousness surpass those who have dedicated their lives to right living? And how do we still struggle with this today?

» With these verses as our guide, what does it appear God is most interested in?

NOTES

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How is my righteousness surpassing the Pharisees & teachers of the Law?

2. How can I renew my "vows" with God today?

3. What part of God's character do I see more clearly now?

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