

Matthew 5:17-20 “Wait, What Did He Just Say?”

Stand Read Pray

This week we pick up in our series “A Message from The King” with a statement by Christ that would have shocked the hearers. Both the people and the religious leaders would say “Wait, What Did He Just Say?”. As we saw last week the ones that receives favor from God are only those who have nothing to bring to the equation. Flying in the face of the religious leaders who were sure that it was by pedigree and effort that one is accepted by God. But Jesus anticipating the argument about the Law makes this statement. It put both parties in their place and equally offended them alike. Yes, we are saved by Grace through Faith apart from the law, but the law has a purpose. It has a fulfillment and that is in a person...Jesus Christ. Let’s dive into what the King has to say...

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

How did Jesus fulfill the law? First, we have to understand what He meant by the Law. There is much debate about this. Was it just the ten commandments? Was it the whole Torah? Was it the whole Old Testament. We know a few things the Bible tells us...

John 1:1

And the Word (Logos) became flesh and dwelt among us

Hebrews 4:12

For the word (Logos) of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Luke 24:44

Then He said to them, “These are the words (Logos) which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

Jesus fulfilled the entire Word of God! See it was not just the law of Moses but everything. If you have been with us on Wednesday, you would see how it all points to Christ. Every word, type and shadow. And the brightest picture of Christ is found in the book of Leviticus. The suffering servant that will be our sacrificial Lamb. Something these hearers would not understand until He rises from the dead.

He would go to say...

Matthew 5:18

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.

Do you believe in the inspiration of scripture? Jesus was referring to the little marks in the Hebrew that determine the tense of the words. We like to think of it as our “Dotting the I’s and crossing the T’s” but it is much more than that. It is the same as it is that every single detail has a purpose. Some of it will not make sense until we get to Heaven. I believe that we will find that it will take eternity to discover all the ways that Jesus fulfilled scripture. We know His Word is eternal...

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

Psalms 33:11

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

Psalms 119:89

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalms 119:160

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Do you know this includes the Second Coming of Christ and the coming Millennial Kingdom? Do you know that the time we are living in is described in scripture and to ignore it is to say that not all scripture is important. Remember that when deciding what Church, you want to attend. As I have said in the past would you eat at a restaurant that only gives you half the meal they promised? Don't you want all that God has to offer you? You need all the word!

Matthew 5:19

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.

Does this mean we have to keep the law? The Sabbath and eat Kosher? No. But we are not to ignore them either. Before we leave today, we will see the purpose of the Law and what it teaches. What does one need to keep the law? A sacrifice!

1 Corinthians 5:7

For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

This is not license or legalism. How do we know that? By the next statement by Jesus...

Matthew 5:20

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.

Wait, what did He just say? This would have offended the Religious as they had considered themselves already to have attained. The people would have gasped because this was unobtainable to them. This was impossible! That's right it is.

How does one attain to that righteousness?

I am glad you asked!

Romans 3:9-26

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

10 As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”

13 “Their throat is an open tomb;

With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;

“The poison of asps is under their lips”;

14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of peace they have not known.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Paul would go on and address this further in Romans 6:15-23

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey,

you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Problem with the Law was around then...

Galatians 2:11-21

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ; it

is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

Do you want to fulfill the law? Put your faith in Christ!

Romans 10:1-13

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for [a]Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Believe in Him and you will be saved and given a new heart that will fulfill the law by being led by the Spirit. Do it today.

Communion

Stand Pray Song