

08-17-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20

Title: The Law

In these verses we have Jesus' view of the Bible

How He looks at scripture...

He is the one speaking here

Not one part of it will pass away

Not even a little part

He came to fulfill it

At the time Jesus said this

How much of the Bible was in existence?

...the OT

We can apply all of this to the NT

This is specifically referring to the OT

Before we get into this further I have a question I want you to think about...

Kind of a rabbit trail – hopefully we'll bring it back...

What is the basis for our laws?

Is there absolute truth, and what is the basis for it?

## Basis for law

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Is there an absolute source of truth?

Is there an absolute standard of morality?

Is there an absolute rule of justice?

Where is the anchor for a society based on relativism?

Is there an absolute standard we can live by?

Is there an absolute authority?

Is there an unchanging authority, an inviolable (unchangeable) law?

Should truth be left up to one's own interpretation?

Should truth be dependent on perspective?

Questions to consider in this day and age

I remember learning in school, college, somewhere – the basis for our laws was God, or the Bible

Don't believe that is still true anymore

What is the basis for our laws w/o God or the Bible?

The passage we're looking at today really is kind of connected to this

It answers the question of the basis for the new kingdom, Jesus' kingdom...

Is Jesus starting things all over – or is He in line w/ the Law?

If He's starting over – what about the OT

Does God change?

Does God's law change?

As we get into the passage today...do we have

# A new Law?

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Remember, Jesus is giving His first message/sermon  
People are hearing Him for the first time  
He is teaching about the kingdom  
His kingdom

His teaching is different from anything they've heard  
Is He throwing out the old?  
Are we starting all over?  
What about all the things Moses taught?  
What about the teachings of the day?  
Is He removing the foundation of the OT?  
Is Jesus saying we have to do everything the OT says?  
That question has been wrestled w/ for years

Is this new Messiah coming in w/ radical changes?  
What does this "new guy" think about the Old?  
What about Moses?  
What about the Law, and the Prophets?

The Scribes and Pharisees were busy talking about the law – Jesus is talking about grace and mercy  
How do these two mesh?  
Scribes and Pharisees were binding people to the law  
Jesus is forgiving people

Scribes/Pharisees talking about outside  
Jesus' focus is inside

Is this some new theology?

Jesus says...**Matthew 5:17-20**

This isn't new, not new stuff

I am fulfilling the old

He's not setting aside the smallest part

## Absolute truth

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**John 17:17** ...*Your word is truth.*

The Bible is an absolute, (the absolute) it is truth

Absolute truth doesn't change

What was true 3,000 years ago – is true today

It doesn't need re-interpreting

It doesn't need a new perspective

These verses give us Jesus' view of scripture

Think about that for a minute...

This is what Jesus has to say about the Bible

I would take this as authority

I would take this as the truth

This may seem to be in contradiction with the old

Jesus wasn't lowering the standard

He was raising it back where it belonged

The law had become external

Jesus put it back where it belonged – inside  
Jesus is supporting the authority of the whole OT  
Is the OT binding on believers today?  
Do we have to follow the OT Law?

Jesus proclaimed grace and mercy  
The Pharisees...?  
Remember their reaction to Jesus' healing on  
the Sabbath...

No concern for the person healed  
It was on the “wrong” day

Jesus emphasis was on the internal, the heart  
He made friends w/ the “low-lives”

### **Matthew 5:17**

This is nothing new  
I'm going to fulfill the OT Law  
He's not setting aside the smallest part of  
the Law  
The standard isn't being lowered  
Actually being put back where it belongs

First He gives us the characteristics of a child in the  
new Kingdom, of a believer – the beatitudes  
Next He says to live as salt and light  
He tells us who we are and how we are to act  
Not easy to be like the beatitudes say

## Not easy to live as salt and light

How do we do this?

By the Word of God

It is our standard of righteousness

God's word gives us the requirements, the principles, the guidelines

We can't live out the beatitudes; we can't be salt and light by lowering the standards

We can't drop God's law and say it's not binding anymore

We can't just love each other and waltz along

Just do our own thing

The standard remains – stays where it is

Our foundation is secure, it is the same, it hasn't changed, it is still based on God's Word

The key to living God's way, righteously

Follow His Word

We have to go beyond the righteousness of the Pharisees...

### **Matthew 5:20**

Their righteousness was external

It was phony, it was fake...

Our righteousness needs to be internal

A righteousness that can only come by the authority and power of God's Word

God's Word is the standard  
God hasn't changed anything  
His standard, His word has not

Jesus is restating the absolute character of the OT  
The binding authority

The Rabbis, religious leaders had so changed things...  
Jesus is restating them  
He is giving us God's original intention

## Wiping out the old?

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### **Matthew 5:17**

*Do not think...*

Don't get the idea

Don't think that...

This was what they were thinking

They thought He was starting over

Setting up s. new

They were thinking this new idea, this new covenant

Would wipe out the old

They were starting all over

They were wrong

Jesus did make fun of their tithing of herbs, etc...

He mocked their continual washings

God's standard is being lifted up, lifted high  
He is exposing the phoniness of what they had  
been doing

We need to follow God's standard  
Not some man-made list of dos and don'ts  
That is just phoniness

- *...that I came to abolish the Law*

Abolish is *kataluo* in Greek

To nullify, to destroy, in a physical sense  
The word is used for smashing a house to  
the ground, pulling down a wall

We could say – last Saturday a group of men *kataluo*'d  
the entry way to the fellowship hall...

This word can also mean to make useless, to make into  
nothing – Jesus was NOT doing this w/ the OT

Jesus is not smashing the OT

He is not pulling it to pieces...

Jesus didn't come to tear down the old,  
the Law

Jesus came to fulfill it

Big difference there

Nothing surpasses the Law, nothing takes its place

Jesus is talking about the Law of God

The Law, written and authorized by God Himself

At the start of the 10 Commandments God says...

**Exodus 20:2**

*2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

*Then He continues – you shall have no other gods before Me*

This is the Lord, He doesn't change

His Law is not subject to our interpretation, our whims

It is not s. we can adapt and adjust to our day – it never changes

## God's Law

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So what is God's Law?

It can actually mean several things, refer to several things...

It can refer to the 10 commandments

It can refer to the Pentateuch – 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of OT

It can refer to the whole OT

In Jesus' day frequently referred to the oral and scribal traditions they had been receiving from the Rabbis

Here is what happened...

God had given the Jews the Law

They believed that keeping the Law is the only way to get to heaven

The Law is internal

The Law demands righteousness  
It demands a certain kind of character

But you know what kind of person you are, a rotten  
kind of person, and you don't really want to give it up  
So you make a whole list of rules  
If you keep these little rules, you're OK  
You keep piling on more rules – trying to  
convince yourself you're OK

Here's an example...

*Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy..., rest from  
your labors*

Don't work on the Sabbath

So what is work?

So let's study work...

Work is carrying a burden

So, what's a burden...

Food equal to the weight of a dried fig

Enough wine for mixing in a goblet

Milk enough for one swallow

Honey enough to put on a wound

Oil enough to anoint a small member

Water enough to moisten an eye salve

Ink enough to write 2 letters of the  
alphabet...

Just a little ridiculous

Imagine trying to handle all this

Could you carry a lamp, could you do this...

What if a tailor had a needle stuck in his clothes and he went out w/ it on...

Could a lady wear a brooch, if it was heavy...

What if you had false teeth – is that a burden?

Could you lift your kid on the Sabbath?

They had a strict list of rules and regulations they had to follow

OK, so Jesus isn't talking about that "Law"

Is it just 10 commandments, just Pentateuch?

He gives us the answer when He refers to the  
*...do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets*

Law and the Prophets

This refers to the whole OT

## Jesus is the fulfillment

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*...but to fulfill*

Jesus didn't come to tear down the OT, to abolish it  
He came to fulfill it

Jesus was saying here – He is the fulfillment of the OT

What they were looking at, listening to  
Was the fulfillment of the whole OT

He is the One spoken of in the Law  
He is the One spoken of in the Prophets

**Luke 24:27**

What is the theme of Moses?

What is the theme of the Prophets?

What is the theme of the whole OT?

Jesus

Every single thing in the OT points to Jesus

God's standard hasn't changed

God's standard never will change

No part of scripture will ever be annulled or destroyed

Jesus fulfilled all of it

What a statement!

What a shocking statement!

Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole OT

He is the Object of the whole OT

B/c God is the origin of the Law – it cannot be  
changed – He and It are both unchangeable

It must be fulfilled

God laid down, 1<sup>st</sup> of all the 10 Commandments

They are basically God's law

They were expanded in the ordinances  
and statutes

The rest of the OT is basically a call for the people to be obedient to these standards

The law can be divided into three parts

Moral, judicial and ceremonial

Moral law is for all men

Judicial was for Israel

Ceremonial was for Israel's worship of God

Moral law encompasses all people

Moral law is based on 10 commandments

Laid down once forever

Again, which of these was Jesus speaking of

All three

All of the principles, all of the prophecies, all of the patterns, all of the types and symbols and pictures

Everything in the OT is authored by God

Everything in the OT is fulfilled in Jesus

Listen to these verses...

**John 5:39**

*39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is **these that testify about Me**;*

**Luke 24:27**

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the **things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.***

**Luke 24:44**

*44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**"*

Jesus is the theme of the entire Bible

**Conclusion:**

What is our ground, what is our foundation?

It is God's Word

It is true, it is absolute truth

Jesus is the truth

God's plan from the beginning has been to send His Son – to pay the penalty for our sin

This can be seen throughout the entire Bible

Starting in Genesis, ending in Revelation

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life...

Jesus is the fulfillment of all that God has said

**Benediction: Hebrews 13:8**

*8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Sermon outline

08-17-14

Matthew 5:17-20

B\_\_\_\_\_ for law

A n\_\_\_\_\_ Law?

A\_\_\_\_\_ truth

W\_\_\_\_\_ out the old?

G\_\_\_\_\_ Law

J\_\_\_\_\_ is the fulfillment