

08-24-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20

Title: The Law

Matthew 5:17-20

As we focused on v. 17 last week...

God's Law is not being changed

Jesus is not coming to change things

Rather He is coming to fulfill them

God's Word is the base for all law, for all truth

Jesus' view of scripture

In these verses we have Jesus' view of scripture

How does He view it?

Is He here to start over?

What does He think of the Law?

What does He think of the Prophets?

Reference to entire OT

When I am doing research on the internet

There is a lot out there

First thing I look at is the doctrinal statement of the people on the particular site

The first thing I look for is their stand on scripture

If they do not believe in the inerrancy of scripture – I find another site –

anything/everything they have to say will be suspect

Inerrancy means that they believe the Bible is God's Word, that it is truth, that it is inerrant – w/o mistake

Here at the start of Jesus 1st sermon

We still have 2 more chapters to go

We have what Jesus believes about the Bible

He is upholding the authority of the Bible

He is upholding the truth of the Bible

Since Jesus believes the Bible is God's Word – true in all that it says

What should our opinion be?

If we are the people the Beatitudes talk about,

If we are poor in spirit,

If we are mourning,

If we were gentle and

Constantly hungering and thirsting after righteousness;

If we are merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers,

If we are willing to be persecuted and falsely accused; if we were those kinds of people,

Then we will be the salt and the light of the world.

This kind of righteousness only comes from a commitment to the Word of God.

- *18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

For truly I say to you...

This is a solemn, sober, authoritative kind of intro

This is s. true

This is s. faithful

This is an absolute

Truly I say to you

Absolutely I say to you

...until heaven and earth pass away

Again, a very strong absolute kind of thing

Cross my heart, hope to die...

God's Word will be here until the universes passes out of existence

The universe will eventually come to an end

God's Word will not end until that happens

Jesus confirms the truth of the OT

*I remember hearing about s. my grandma once said...
There were those who were trying to discount the OT*

*They said that the Red Sea was really the Reed Sea
That this "Sea" was only 2 – 3 feet deep
That is how it was possible for the nation of Israel to
walk through on dry ground
Strong wind blew all night and just dried it up
Grandma's response was – I wonder how Pharoah's
army drowned in only 2 feet of water?*

Jesus confirmed many OT accounts

Matthew 19 – creation and standard of marriage

Luke 11 – Abel's murder

Matthew 24 – Noah and the flood

John 8 – Abraham and his faith

Luke 17 – Sodom and Lot

Mark 12 – Law of Moses

John 6 – manna from heaven

And others...

Jesus also affirmed that Scripture is enough – it is
sufficient – sufficiency

Remember the account of the rich man and Lazarus –
both died – rich man in heaven, Lazarus in torment

Rich man asks if Lazarus could go warn his brothers

Moses' response was **Luke 16:29**

*They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear
them.'*

Moses and the Prophets (OT) is enough for them to be saved – it is sufficient

Remember Jesus' response when tempted by satan back in Matthew 4 – He used God's word...

And then...

Matthew 24:35

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Interesting difference between these 2 verses

Matthew 5 – heaven and earth will pass away – not smallest part of the law – shall pass from the law

Matthew 24 – heaven and earth will pass away – not any of Jesus' words

Put these together – what do we have?

Jesus' words are equal w/ OT

Jesus' words are God's Words...

OT is God's Word

Everything this Book has to say – is true

It will stand until the earth comes to an end

Its truth will stand

Jot or tittle

- *...not the smallest letter or stroke*
...not an iota, not a dot

ESV

...not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen

NIV

one jot or one tittle

NKJV

Jot refers to the smallest Hebrew letter *Yod*

It is similar to an apostrophe

In Greek it is the word *iota*

There are some words in Greek where the *iota* (i) is dropped under another letter as an apostrophe

The *tittle* is an extra line added to distinguish between 2 Hebrew letters

For us it is like the difference between an E and an F – take away/add one little line dif letter

Does Jesus believe that the Bible is inerrant and infallible? You betcha – down to the little letters

Every yod, every *iota* is from God

Nothing was going to change from God's word

Parts of it had already been fulfilled – Jesus' incarnation and His birth

Other parts were yet to be fulfilled – his death, resurrection and glorious return...

Every part of it will be fulfilled

Down to the smallest letter

- ... *until all is accomplished.*

Different from previous verse – *fulfilled*

Until all comes to pass

Everything in scripture must come to pass

It will all be accomplished

Breaking the Law

Matthew 5:19

B/c the Law still stands...

B/c the OT is true...

B/c it is truth, it is God's Word

There is a direct effect for disobeying the Law

...least in the kingdom

There is also a direct effect for obeying the Law

...great in the kingdom

How we deal w/ God's Law will have an effect on our lives – one way or the other

What we do w/ the law determines if we are least or great

If we break God's Law and/or teach others to...

We are least

Annuls/breaks – to loose, to release, to nullify, to destroy

If we loose ourselves from an obligation to follow God's law

Same word used back in v. 17 – abolish
Only here it is intensified

Jesus didn't come to utterly nullify, He didn't come to utterly destroy the Law

Even if you loose one little part – you're least

Believers may try and set parts of the Law aside

Pick and choose what they obey

If we do this we're doing s. Jesus would never do

Ceremonial and Civil Law

We talked some last week about the moral, ceremonial and judicial laws...

When a law is fulfilled it is no longer binding
Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law w/ His sacrifice on the cross – sacrifices were halted in Jerusalem AD70 when the temple was destroyed

Should've ended when the veil was torn in 2

The day Jesus died

The way was opened

The civil/judicial law was fulfilled in the birth of the church and Israel was set aside (for a time)

Ephesians 2:14

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

These laws were to set Israel apart as a nation

The dietary and clothing laws

W/ the birth of the church

The wall between the 2 came crashing down

Moral Law

The moral law hasn't changed

It's basis is God's character

That never changes

Jesus' death on the cross didn't release us from following God's Law

It freed us from the penalty of breaking it

When we repent and trust Jesus...

His death becomes our death

We died in Him – the penalty is paid

In that sense we are no longer under the law

The Law had a penalty and Jesus took the penalty

The person who is trusting Jesus

Is no longer under the condemnation of the Law

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest

commandment his reply was **Matthew 22:37-40**

Sums everything up pretty well

Love the Lord fully and completely

Love your neighbor

The following is reported to be a true story someone found regarding exams at Cambridge University. It seems that during an examination one day a bright young student popped up and asked the proctor to bring him Cakes and Ale. The following dialog ensued:

Proctor: I beg your pardon?

Student: Sir, I request that you bring me Cakes and Ale.

Proctor: Sorry, no.

Student: Sir, I really must insist. I request and require that you bring me Cakes and Ale.

At this point, the student produced a copy of the four-hundred-year old laws of Cambridge, written in Latin and still nominally in effect, and pointed to the section which read (roughly translated):

"Gentlemen sitting examinations may request and require Cakes and Ale." Pepsi and hamburgers were judged the modern equivalent, and the student sat there, writing his examination and happily slurping away.

Three weeks later, the student was fined five pounds for not wearing a sword to the examination. When we study the law, we sometimes are careful to find those things which may benefit us, while

trying to ignore the rest. It happens with the Bible all the time. Ever known anybody who only quoted the Bible when it was convenient for them ("Judge not that ye be not judged")? They want to get their "cakes and ale" but ignore the part about "wearing a sword"? God's Word isn't like a cafeteria. We don't get to go through and pick out which parts we want and which parts we don't like.

James 2:10

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Breaking even one of God's laws (moral laws) – no matter how small – shows irreverence for all the laws

Shows a disregard for God's holiness, His character

If we break God's commands

If we teach others to break them, teach them wrong

We are the least

However

The opposite is also true

Obey the law

Teach the law correctly

You become the greatest

The Moral Law is an extension of God's character and His nature, it is still binding on us.

Many scriptures deal w/ this...

1 Timothy 6:11

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Conclusion:

As we wrap this up today

I want you to remember Jesus' view of scripture...

He saw it as true

He saw it as truth

He saw it as sufficient

Three logical things we can do w/ this

1. Jesus was ignorant and didn't know there were mistakes
2. Jesus knew there were mistakes and He lied about it
3. Jesus knew it was truth

If Jesus didn't know about the mistakes –
He's not God

If Jesus knew and hid the mistakes – He's
a hypocrite

Jesus believed the Scriptures, knew they were truth

He knew they were true

He knew every part of them would come to pass

What difference does that make to you and me?

What is our view of scripture?

Do we see it as truth, absolute truth?
Do we honor it and submit to it?
Are we studying it, reading it, memorizing it?
Every part of it

We need to obey the law – God’s moral law
Summed up w/

Love God w/ all your heart, soul, mind and
strength

Love your neighbor as yourself

It is important that we do both of these
Follow them to the fullest

Jesus has removed the penalty

We need to obey His laws

Be ye holy as I am holy...

Are you loving God w/ all of your heart – every part of
you? Are you loving your neighbor

Important to keep the order – God is first

Benediction:

Isaiah 40:8

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

The Law

Sermon notes

Jesus' view of s_____

J_____ or t_____

B_____ the Law

C_____ and C_____ Law

M_____ Law