

From Old to New

Matthew 5:17-30

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

What does Jesus have to say about the law and prophets?

- For the Jews, this would speak to His credibility.
- The law and prophets refer to the entirety of accepted Scripture at that time. They did not refer to it as the Old Testament.
- The Torah = the law. Then the Prophets. Also, the Writings. Everything else. But all called the law and the prophets.
- "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets."
 - Why would they think that? Jesus will teach things that seem to make the law dead.
 - Do Not Fall for That Trap! Replacement Theology = Bad!
 - The New Testament has not replaced the Old Testament.
 - In fact, next week we will see that God makes eternal covenants that always stand. Newer Covenants build off existing covenants.

Jesus said He did not come to destroy the law or prophets, but to fulfill.

- What does it mean to fulfill?
- Jesus kept the law, thus fulfilling it. But it is so much more than keeping 613 commandments.
- Jesus is the answer to the law. He is what the entire Old Testament is revealing.
 - Jesus is the theme of the Old Testament. When we read the OT, we are reading about Jesus.
 - **John 5:39-40** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

- **John 5:46-47** For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"
- **Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Jesus is in every single part of the Old Testament

1. Jesus is the Seed of woman that crushes the serpent in Genesis.
 2. Jesus is the Passover lamb in Exodus.
 3. Jesus is the Great High Priest in Leviticus.
 4. He is the cloud and the pillar of fire in Numbers.
 5. He is the Prophet in Deuteronomy.
 6. He is the King, He is the temple, He is our Shepherd,
 7. He is The Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven in Daniel.
 8. In every book and in every story they all show us Jesus.
- And He fulfilled the prophets by being the Messiah that they all pointed to. Over 300 prophecies from the OT point specifically to Jesus who fulfilled them all.

Matthew 5:18-19 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.

- Assuredly = amen
- The entirety of Scripture is perfect and eternal.
- We have a high view of God's Word. Yes, including the OT.
- Whoever breaks and teaches others to – Is least. Is Scripture a big deal – YES.
- We are commanded to be in the Word and to teach others. Invest in others.
- Jot and tittle (Yod and Keraia) – Smallest letter, apex of a letter.

Jesus' point here is that the Old Testament, the law, the words of the prophets, all of it – Is still active and vital today.

Now, before you run out of here screaming “Don’t throw me back under the law” please, hear the rest of this message.

Because the truth is, for the people of the Old Testament, the people listening to the sermon on the mount, and you and I today, the law is still active. And it still brings judgement.

Let’s see what Jesus says about that:

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.

- Your righteousness must exceed... Scripture presents an impossible standard.
- Pharisees were the Spiritual leaders. How could they exceed the best?
- How good is good enough?
- I am not good enough and I never will be.
- That’s why the Beatitudes showed us that Christ is the fulfillment.
- Only 2 types of religions – Human works. God’s grace.

And then Jesus doubles down on the standards:

- In Matthew 5:21-26 Jesus says You have heard it said do not murder, but I say if you are angry with your brother you are in danger of judgement and hell.
- Then in Matthew 5:27-30 Jesus again says You have heard it said do not commit adultery. But I say if you look at someone with lust you have committed adultery.

You have heard it said – Jesus takes it up a notch. Jesus agrees with the command, but disagrees with our interpretation of it.

Our interpretation is too narrow.

Jesus takes it from action to motive.

Everything Jesus is saying in this sermon that we are discussing today would have been absolutely shocking to the listeners.

And He gets more inflammatory.

- **Matthew 5:29-30** If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

What is happening?

- Jesus wants us to have a visceral reaction to sin. There should be a radical response to sin.
- Sin causes death. It is not worth having in our lives. Do not sacrifice the eternal for the temporary.
- Eternal judgment and torment is a big deal and should be treated as such.

Jesus has basically told the people that the only escape from hell and the only way into heaven is to be righteous.

- Then He presented an unattainable level of righteousness that is required.

But there is more happening here than any of those people listening understood.

He is explaining that this is what the (at that time) current covenant requires. And it still requires it today. And we are all under it.

So is there hope?

Yes. We started with hope.

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.

Jesus is about to bring a New Covenant. Well, in 3 years from then.

This is about transition

Are the Gospels New Testament books or Old Testament books?

- The Gospels are actually Transitional – Pointing to a New Covenant that has not been established yet, but still living under the Old Covenant.
- Jesus was the embodiment of transition. He came during the Old Covenant and ushered in the New Covenant.
- **Old Testament = Law**
- **Gospels = Transition**
- **New Testament = Grace**
- The Gospels transition us from one covenant to a new and better covenant. The Gospels are not New Covenant until after Jesus died and resurrected.

Jesus as the transition had to institute a new way of thinking and operating while still functioning under the old way.

- He challenged their thinking - You have heard it said... (lust = adultery, hate = murder)
- He showed them that we not only have a behavioral problem, we have a heart problem
- And that there is no way that we can live up to the standards of God – unless something could be done about our heart problem.

Enter the New Covenant

- **Ezekiel 36:25-28** Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. ²⁸ Then

you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

- **The New Covenant:**

- I will clean you – All sin is forgiven, past, present, future
- I will give you a new heart
- I will put a new Spirit in you
- I will put My Spirit in you
- I will cause you to keep my judgements (commandments)
- You will be mine and I will be yours

Everything that we need to free us from the power of the Old Covenant is found in Jesus under the New Covenant.

- **Romans 3:20-22** 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;
- **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Without the work of the New Covenant, we would still be judged by the standards of the law (Old Covenant).

Let's look at Jesus' fulfillment of these things

1. I will clean you
 - a. **Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
2. I will give you a new heart
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
3. I will put a new spirit in you
 - a. **Ephesians 2:1** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins
4. I will put My Spirit within you

- a. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
 - b. **1 John 4:13** By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
- 5. I will cause you to keep My commandments
 - a. **Galatians 2:20** 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.
- 6. You will be mine and I will be yours
 - a. **Ephesians 2:4-6** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* **in Christ Jesus**
 - b. **Colossians 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Entering into the New Covenant (we call this salvation) brings us into fulfillment of the Old Covenant. Not because we fulfilled it, but because Jesus did, and then gave that victory to us.

Romans 8:1-17 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (*we are not condemned by the law*), who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (*The New Covenant has set us free from the power of the Old Covenant*) ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 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. (*In Christ, the requirements of the law have been fulfilled*) ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be

carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (*We cannot have the fruit of the Spirit if we are not willing to walk in the Spirit*) ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (*We have been given new life in the Spirit*) ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 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. (*The Old Covenant brought death, the New Covenant brings life*). 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.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. (*We are now in the family of God*).

A Little hermeneutics:

Because the Gospels are transitional, we must be careful how we preach scriptures out of the Gospels.

- **Mat 6:14-15** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”
 - Part of the law we cannot truly live up to
- **Eph 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace