

Sermon on the Mount #04
I did not come to abolish . . . Part #1
Matthew 5:17-26
May 14, 2006
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Welcome to some of the most difficult verses in all the Bible . . . you know, sometimes, I get dreamy about preaching topical messages . . . so I could avoid these difficult ones . . . but that's not God's will for my life as your pastor . . . nor is it in any of our best interests to avoid things in Scripture that we don't understand . . . that scare us . . . that confuse us . . .

According to 2 Peter, God has given to us all that we need for life and godliness . . . which means, it's in this book . . . that this book, the Bible, must be our guide . . . and if we don't understand something, it's not God's fault . . . yes, some parts of this are very, very difficult . . . by way of encouragement, as I went to study this passage this week, I picked up a book by one of my favorite authors, a fellow named DA Carson . . . Listen to what hit my eyes this past week . . . "Matthew 5:17-20 are among the most difficult verses in all the Bible . . ."

Thank you DA . . . what an encouragement . . .

So, here's what we are going to do today . . . this is going to be much more of teaching than preaching . . . that's just the way it must be . . . I am not allowed by God . . . nor are you allowed by God to skip over these . . . to ignore them . . .

If we've been given all things that pertain to life and godliness in the Bible . . . then we had better agree right now that our job is to know it, study it, learn it, and live it . . .

And if that takes time, and effort . . . all the better . . . now is a good time to say amen . . .

And if we get done w/ our time today and you still have questions . . . good . . . we need to grow past the stage in our Christian walk where we think that being godly means having all the answers . . .

Alright . . . we need to pray, and then let's just jump in and start . . .

PRAY . . .

The Law, the books from Genesis to Deuteronomy, was Scripture par excellence for the Jews . . . and they examined it with minute thoroughness . . .

- A. They discovered, for example, that there are 613 commandments in this part of Scripture . . .
- B. 248 positives . . . thou shall's . . .
- C. And 365 negatives . . . thou shall not's . . .
- D. And for the crowds in Jesus' day . . . one of the things that many were thinking was that Jesus was going to be releasing them from the Laws . . .

- E. And what Jesus is about to do was shocking . . .
- F. He just got done telling them that they are not good enough to get into heaven . . . blessed are the poor in spirit . . . for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven . . .
- G. Unless you are ready to admit that you are spiritually bankrupt, unable to offer God any reason to let you into His heaven . . . you are not going to make it . . .
- H. That was a difficult message, because many of the people listening that day thought they were already on their way . . .
- I. They were expecting, and rightly so, a Jewish kingdom, run by a Jewish Messiah . . . and they were correct in expecting that . . . and they figured, “well, hey, I’m Jewish, so I’m going to be part of that kingdom . . . automatically . . . I mean, I have Jewish parents . . . I’ve been to Jewish school . . . I know the Law . . . I know about the prophets . . . I’m sure to get in before any Gentiles . . .”
- J. And Jesus is Jewish . . . Jesus is doing miracles He’s preaching the message of the Kingdom . . . He’s the King . . . the Kingdom’s on its way . . .
- K. It’s about time . . .
- L. And in context, Jesus has already told them that they do not get into His Kingdom by their good works . . . blessed are the poor in spirit . . . for theirs in the Kingdom of heaven . . .
- M. So now what . . . we admit we are spiritually poor, we get saved . . . we get into heaven by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone . . . according to Scripture alone . . .
- N. Amen?
- O. But does that mean, that now we are saved . . . now that we are God’s people . . . are we free from any laws?
- P. Does the OT apply to us?
- Q. If so, why?
- R. If not, why not?
- S. If only part of it applies to us, which part?
- T. Why don’t the other parts?
- U. Friends, I hope I’m making you uncomfortable . . . I planned to . . .
- V. B/c that is exactly what Jesus did for His first audience . . .
- W. Everyone hearing Him, had to ask the question . . . well, now wait a minute . . . if the Law doesn’t get me to heaven . . . then what does the Law do?
- X. What does this Jesus have to say about the Law?

And w/ that in mind, please turn your attention to Matthew . . . READ Matthew 5:17-26

1. What He says . . .

- a. I came not to destroy the Law and the prophets
 - i. Law and prophets = the whole thing (from beginning to end) (Matt. 22:40)
 - ii. “Destroy” = a violent, strong term meaning to demolish, to ruin, to put an end to (used of the destruction of the Temple – Matthew 24:2)
- b. But to fulfill
 - i. Means to complete, to finish, to cause to happen
 - ii. Does not mean to obey, to keep, to be obedient to

- iii. Applies to all the Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets)
- c. “Till heaven and earth pass . . .” = the end of created things
 - i. “One jot or tittle” = smallest Hebrew alphabet character and smallest mark made in writing Hebrew
 - (1) jot = ך
 - (2) tittle = the difference between ך and ך
 - ii. “In no wise pass from the Law” = it will all take place
 - iii. “Till all be fulfilled” = what God says in the Old Testament is going to occur
- d. “Break” = to loosen (like breaking a seal), to relax
 - i. “Least commandments” = the ones we might call no important
 - ii. “And shall teach me” = relax God’s Law on others
 - iii. “least in the kingdom of heaven” = a lowly position in God’s kingdom
 - iv. “Shall do and teach them” = the ones who will obey and will teach others to obey
 - v. “Great” = position of honor in the Kingdom
- e. Righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees
 - i. The most religious people they knew
 - ii. Those who had given their lives to knowing and obeying the Law and prophets (the Scriptures)
- f. In no case shall enter the kingdom of heaven = you’re not going to make it

2. What He means . . . His requirements are radically more difficult than we would have expected/wanted!

- a. I did not come to destroy =
 - i. Jesus is completely committed to all of what God said in the Old Testament
 - ii. He says that it is authoritative and it’s demands must be met
- b. But to fulfill =
 - i. He would do what Scripture says He would
 - ii. He would bring a fuller meaning to Scripture
 - iii. His life and ministry would bring Scripture to it’s stated goal
 - iv. His life and ministry are not in opposition to the Law, they are the complete harmony
- c. “Till heaven and earth . . . all be fulfilled” =
 - i. What God says in the Scripture is going to occur
 - ii. Because God said that it is
 - iii. And Jesus is committed to seeing that take place
- d. “Whosoever . . .”
 - i. People will be judged according to their response to God’s Word
 - ii. Those who “tone it down” stand to be judged by God as allowing sin to flourish
 - iii. Those who obey it, and teach others to obey it, will be honored by God
 - iv. This means that Jesus’ followers, people of the Kingdom, must be

committed to:

- (1) obeying the Scriptures
- (2) teaching others to obey the Scriptures

- e. “The least of these commandments” = we can’t pick and choose what commands we like; we can’t pick what prophecies we favor
 - f. “Unless your righteousness . . . “
 - i. Human obedience and efforts are not good enough to get anyone into God’s Kingdom
 - ii. The scribes and Pharisees are striving to keep the Law . . . but they are wrong!
 - iii. Despite their commitment to Scripture, religious people without transformed hearts will have no place in the kingdom – v. 20
 - g. In summary:
 - i. Jesus demands wholehearted commitment to Himself and to His teaching
 - ii. Jesus demands wholehearted commitment to the Scriptures
 - iii. He Himself was committed to keeping the Law
 - iv. He states that God’s Law is eternal
 - v. He states that others will be judged by the authority of the Law of God
 - vi. He states that we cannot pick and choose what we want to obey = it is all or nothing
 - vii. God will punish teachers who undermine students’ obedience to any portion of the Bible – v. 19
 - viii. The Law and Prophets point to Him and Him alone
 - h. Jesus is doing two things here:
 - i. Overthrowing erroneous traditions of men
 - ii. Stating that the Scriptures are completely authoritative in our lives
3. How He Applies This to Us – Anger and Murder
- a. What the Law says: the 6th Commandment: [Exodus 20:13](#) Thou shalt not kill (murder).
 - b. Well, got you there, Pastor, I’ve never killed anyone
 - c. Have ever wished someone you know dead?
 - d. Have you ever stooped to character assassination?
 - e. Have you ever