

Huh?

Part Three: *the Law*

March 19, 2023

Last Sunday, I helped you make sense of The Similitudes. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus compared Christians to salt and light because he wanted his followers to know they have great value and visibility on earth. Well today, I want to help you make sense of what Jesus said about the Law.

The Pharisees did not like Jesus for five reasons:

1. Jesus taught by God's authority – not by the authority of Israel's leaders.
2. Jesus did not keep the traditions of the Pharisees; Christ traveled, taught, ate, and healed on the Sabbath.
3. Jesus associated with sinners (tax collectors, prostitutes, etc.).
4. Jesus was more powerful and popular than the Pharisees.
5. Jesus was more concerned with a person's heart than religious rituals.

These five reasons caused the scribes and Pharisees to believe Jesus was starting a new religion that was opposed to the Law of Moses. So...

1st - Jesus made it clear that he did not come to destroy the Law; he came to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17

Jesus did not come to earth to put an end to the Law of Moses and the writings of the Old Testament prophets. He came to fulfill the Law and establish a New Covenant with his blood (Luke 22:20).

How did Jesus perfectly fulfill the Law and the prophets?

- Jesus fulfilled the Law by completing every one of the messianic prophecies!

Jesus was born as the Old Testament prophets said He would be born (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6), and he did exactly what the Old Testament prophets said He would do (Luke 4:16-21). He died, was buried, and rose again as the O.T. prophets predicted (Isaiah 53: 3-12). Jesus completed the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah!

- Jesus also perfectly fulfilled the Law with his actions.

Jesus was born under the Law and perfectly kept it (Gal. 4:4; Matt. 3:17; 17:5). He also taught God's full intention of the Law (Matt. 5:21-48). Jesus also fulfilled the Law through His death and resurrection. Christ bore for us the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13). He fulfilled the Old Testament types and ceremonies (Heb. 9–10).

2nd - Jesus made it clear that no portion of the Law would disappear until it was fulfilled. Vs. 18

3rd – Jesus made it clear to his audience that they were still under the Law. Vs. 19

Jesus wanted the Jews listening to him that day to understand that they were still under the full requirements of the Old Testament Law. None of the commandments were to be dismissed as unimportant or broken.

How does verse 19 apply to us today?

- We are responsible to keep the portion of the Old Testament Law that is repeated in the New Testament.

4th - Jesus made it clear to his audience that they needed to be more righteous than their religious leaders to enter heaven. Vs. 20

I imagine the crowd went silent when Jesus told them the righteousness they were currently seeking—that of the scribes and Pharisees—was insufficient for entrance into the kingdom he was offering. Then, after explaining how to fully obey the Law (Vs. 21-47), Jesus told his audience they needed to be perfect (without sin), just as God in heaven is perfect (Vs. 48).

If the Law cannot make us righteous, why did God give us the Law?

- God gave us the Law to show us we are sinners in need of a Savior! Romans 3:20-24

In truth, every one of us has broken God's Law many times. We are all unrighteous and deserving of Hell. That's why Jesus – the perfect God/man came to earth and died on the cross for our sins! The Law condemns us to death and hell, but Jesus provided a way for us to be forgiven and have eternal life in heaven.

Some Personal Questions...

1. *Are you as perfect as God?*
2. *Have you trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?*