

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

# JESUS IS KING



## The Law & True Righteousness

**Text:** Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus says to the listeners on the mount that this is the reason why He has come. This message is taught to a primarily Jewish audience. Keep in mind that when Jesus walked this earth and was conducting His earthly ministry He was accused of being contrary to the Law of Moses. He ate with sinners. He called fisherman and tax collectors to be his pupils. He mixed with the people and met with samaritans. The majority of the Jewish leaders at the time hated him. The Pharisees and Sadducees considered Jesus a heretic, and empowered by the prince of demons. The narrative they pushed was that Jesus was teaching against the old testament law and prophets, and that he wanted to destroy the temple of God in Jerusalem.

### 1. Jesus' relationship to the Law - Matthew 5:17-18

Jesus says "No" to this smear campaign. In fact, he came to 'fulfill them'—in the sense 'fulfill and so establish'. Jesus

came not to obliterate, but to uphold the Old Testament revelation. We will explain what he meant by fulfill.

### **What is the Law & the Prophets?**

The Law is the first 5 books of the Old Testament - the Torah. The Prophets were The Law is the first 5 books of the Old Testament - the Torah. The Prophets were considered everything after the first 5 books including the historical books, poetic books, and the major and minor prophets. Genesis through Malachi (the entire Old Testament) is the Law & the Prophets.

### **How did Jesus fulfill the Law? What does that mean?**

Jesus said don't think that I have come to obliterate the law and the prophets. **Jesus is saying that He is going to satisfy the demands of the law and fulfill what the law pointed to.** He was essentially telling the people before him that I am the reality of the Law. I am what the law pointed to in times past and I will meet the righteous requirements of the law and the demands of the law. None of us can measure up to the law and therefore we were under the curse of the Law and that is death.

**This is the bad news.** The law creates a standard so high that we are unable to keep it perfectly. The law says that if we fail in one point then we fail at it all. The wages of sin is death. The law is good! You and I are the problem. We can't keep it. The law reveals my sin and pronounces a sentence on me.

### **Romans 7:9-11 (the Curse of the Law)**

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, **sin revived**, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

11 For sin, taking occasion **“opportunity”** by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

**This is the good news.** Jesus came and kept the righteous requirements of the law and freed us from the curse of the Law. **Jesus did what you and I can't do.** He lived as a human being and as the Son of God and lived a perfect life. He is our High Priest who was tempted in every way and yet without sin. Jesus added nothing to the law except one thing that no man had ever added to the law: **perfect obedience.**

**Jesus fulfilled the law by his ability to pay mankind's sin debt.** No matter how much you love me or someone else you can't cover their sin debt. Jesus was uniquely qualified to satisfy the demands of the law. I can't pay your debt because I have my own debt. Jesus was that sacrificial lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

### **Galatians 3:13**

13 Christ hath redeemed us **from the curse of the law**, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**Jesus literally took our curse and debt and paid for it.** He satisfied the demands of the Law. This is amazing! The law tells us how really rotten sin is. **The law reveals to us that our sin is more than just a bummer but a death**

**sentence.** It cant bring life but shows me my end is death. Jesus comes and fulfills the law and then takes my curse and your curse and all those who place their faith in him. Our faith in Jesus removes the curse from us. The debt is no longer owed. You are redeemed. You are saved. You are bought with a price. Amen

### **3 Parts of the Law - Jesus fulfilled them all**

- **Moral** - ten commandments, adultery, murder, theft, coveting, honesty, worship
- **Civil** - daily life in Israel, laws regarding property, lending, inheritances, employers, treatment of the poor, health and sanitation
- **Ceremonial** - sabbath keeping, laws regarding feast days, festivals - day of atonement.

### **Colossians 2:16-17**

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

**Colossians explains how the law pointed to Jesus - especially the ceremonial laws.** It was all a shadow of things to come. Now, How did Jesus fulfill the Civil law (laws regarding my relationship with mankind) and Moral law (laws that related to my relationship with God)?

### **Jeremiah 31:33 (Prophecy concerning the Holy Spirit)**

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my

law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**God made a point of the law being made on stone tablets.** It was hard and external rules. **They were going to be broken.** In Jeremiah, God reveals that he is going to take the hard, external law and He is going to put it in on the soft and tender hearts of His people (believers) and literally put it inside you by His Spirit. Do you realize that we have something or someone far greater in us than the stone tablets the Israelites had? **We don't just have the law written on our hearts now but we have the pure, holy law-giver in us - the Holy Spirit.**

## **2 Corinthians 3:3**

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written **not with ink**, but with the Spirit of the living God; **not in tables of stone**, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

**Paul says I see the work of God in your life.** The Law of God - His wisdom and perfection and His spirit is evident in your life and in your heart.

## **Romans 7:6**

6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

**We don't serve by the external code but by newness of the Spirit.** Through Faith in Jesus we are declared righteous and free to serve in the newness of the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 5:18**

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

**In vs. 18, Jesus goes on to stress the divine authority of the Old Testament law:** as the Word of God it must all stand ‘until heaven and earth pass away’ or ‘until all is accomplished’.

**The jot and the tittle were small marks in Hebrew writing.** Like crossing our T’s and dotting our I’s. Jesus here told us that not only are the ideas & concepts of the word of God important, but also the words themselves – even the letters of the words – are important. This shows us how highly God regards His word.

## **2. The Disciple’s relationship to the Law v. 19-20**

**What a shocking statement! Jesus in v. 20 goes on to the offensive,** claiming that the standards of the kingdom are actually far higher than those of the Pharisees: indeed you will not even enter the kingdom, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees.

**The onlookers would have gasped at this.** They held the pharisees and teachers of religious law as blameless. Considering the incredible devotion to the law shown by the scribes and Pharisees, how can we ever hope to exceed their righteousness?

**Though the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees was impressive to human observation, it could not prevail before God**

### **Isaiah 64:6**

6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

This really is a lean in to the next part of the sermon drawing lines between the righteousness of the Pharisees and the perfect standard of God.

Jesus is gonna start teaching soon that the pharisees were just worried about the outside actions and not the inward heart motivators.

### **Conclusion:**

How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

Fulfilled the righteous requirements of the Law

(Perfect Obedience)

Fulfilled the demands of the Law

(Sinless Sacrifice/Atonement)

Fulfilled the Ceremonial, Civil and Moral Law (A Shadow to Come)

## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The Pharisees were legalist. What is your definition of legalism? What is your experience with legalism in your family or church experience?
2. Do you think legalism can be a temptation? If so, Why is legalism so appealing to our human nature?
3. Do you have an Old Testament example, law or story that points to Jesus?
4. Do you believe the sabbath is required for Christians today?
5. Was there anything else you would add to the message about Jesus fulfilling the law and the prophets?