

Part 3 – May 9, 2010

Kingdom Law

Matthew 5:17-48

Intro

Matthew 5:17-20

- Children, legalism, & lawlessness.

1. Christ did not come to abolish the Law/Prophets (v. 17)

“Law & Prophets”

- Functional “Marcionism”

The Commandments

- Jesus hasn’t come to do away with God’s moral law.

“Jesus does not here correct or complete the law of God, but is its defender and guardian... Jesus’ attitude toward the law is invariably and exclusively positive”

-Herman Ridderbos, *The Coming of the Kingdom*, 299, 309

2. Christ came to fulfill the Law/Prophets (v. 17-18)

Matthew 11:13

- The Law prophecies of the coming of Christ—He is its end and goal.
- The Law was the shadow of Christ cast down the history of redemption until the storyline of the Bible traces its way back to him.

“Jesus fulfills the law by obeying it, but also by revealing its promise. When Jesus comes, the law takes on a different meaning and function. Its role of prophecy ends, for Jesus is the end (the *telos*, the goal) of the law. For this reason, once Jesus has come, God’s people will never think of the law in quite the same way. We must not miss the prophetic function of the law... God’s law is given in the course of his saving work, and the whole of that work is leading us to Jesus Christ... Jesus fulfilled the law, then, not simply by obeying it, but by transforming it”

–**Edmund Clowney**, *How Jesus Transforms the Ten Commandments*, 8

- The coming of Christ redefines our relationship to the Law.
- Jesus also fulfills the Law as the perfect teacher of the Law.

3. Greatness in the Kingdom is proportional to valuing God's commandments (v. 19)

- Who are the great ones?
- God's will & the Ten Commandments

1 Thess. 4:3

Matt. 28:20

"Our attitude to the law of God is an index of our attitude to God himself. If we treat the law lightly and encourage others to do so (if we have a settled and consistent attitude of antagonism toward it), we show that we are strangers to the promise of the new covenant in Christ. But if we love and keep even the least of the Lord's commandments, and we encourage others to do so as well (if we have a settled attitude of obedience), that is a sure mark that we love Christ and belong to his kingdom" –**Sinclair Ferguson**, *The Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Life in a Fallen World*, 77

John 14:15

- Loving the Law of God is not legalism.

*"For sin will have no dominion over you, **since** you are not under law but under grace" (Romans 6:14).*

4. Righteousness that exceeds the scribes/Pharisees is necessary to enter the Kingdom (v. 20)

- A shocking statement.

Matthew 23:1-3

- Jesus calls His disciples to a *qualitatively different* righteousness.

1 Corinthians 6:9

- This righteousness is the fruit, not the root, of our acceptance.

Read for next week: Matthew 6