

The Sermon on the Mount:
Foundations and directions
for life from Jesus

LIFE 101

THIS SUNDAY'S MESSAGE:

Salt & Light

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 5:17-20 –

**17 “Do not think that I came to
destroy the Law or the Prophets.
I did not come to destroy but to
fulfill.**

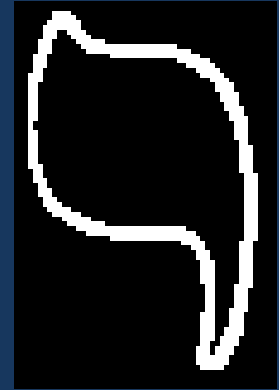
What is “The Law”?

- 1) The Ten Commandments
- 2) First five books of the Bible
- 3) Old Testament (law and prophets)
- 4) **Oral or scribal law**

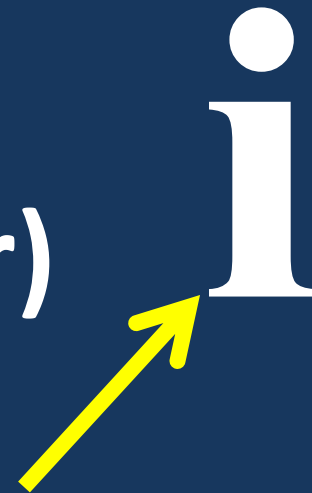
Matthew 5:17-20 –

18 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.

Jot (yod, smallest letter
in Hebrew)



Tittle
(smallest part of letter)



Matthew 5:17-20 –

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.

Matthew 5:17-20 –

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.

Jesus saw the oral or scribal law as an impediment to obedience to God's Law

The mishnah and talmuds were collections of oral interpretations and traditions surrounding the Old Testament Law

The Law and Jesus

- Jesus praises, upholds, and fulfills the law as given in Holy Scripture (the law and the prophets).
- He condemns the burden imposed by the scribes and legalists who perverted the law by imposing endless regulations for every situation of life – they had lost the heart and soul of the law.

Joshua 22:5

But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: **to love the LORD your God**, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

The Law and Christians

- 1) The law is not our gateway to God's love and approval
- 2) The law is not a useless artifact from the "Old" Testament, made moot by grace and faith in Christ
- 3) The law reveals our sin (as a "tutor") while the Holy Spirit and the Gospel bear witness to our need for Christ.

Galatians 3:23-25

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

This Morning's Key Question:

Jesus was preaching the full spirit and truth of the law, yet those who prided themselves the most on their “righteousness” did not recognize the law in his teachings.

Where have our traditions, routines, and fears interfered with our hearing Jesus?

