

**THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED**

Matthew Chapter 5

● **Matthew 5:17-20 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>20</sup> For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

“A Christian’s Righteousness: Christ, the Christian and the Law”

**Christian Righteousness:**

- I. Christ and the Law (verses 17-18)
- II. Christians and the Law (verses 19-20)
- III. Christ and the Law

When Jesus first began His ministry, His adversaries did not like the authority and power he was given by God by God.

● **Mark 1:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

● **Mark 1:27 (KJV)**

<sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

● Matthew 8:27 (KJV)

<sup>27</sup> But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Many questioned His authority against the authority of the law of Moses. It was clear to them that the scribes were submissive to the law of Moses; for they were “teachers of the law.”

The scribes devoted themselves to its interpretation and claimed for themselves no other authority apart from the authority they represented. Their interpretation was the only authority they accepted. However, Jesus spoke with His own authority. This eventually led to His arrest.

● Acts 4:5-7 (KJV)

<sup>5</sup> And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

<sup>6</sup> And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Scribes – Professional scholars who interpreted the law of Moses and applied it to every aspect of life. They were addressed by the title “**Rabbi.**”

Pharisees – A religious party of the Jews who strictly observed the law of Moses and regarded it as authoritative. **They were religious but not righteous.**

Sadducees – A religious party of the Jews who believed in the law of Moses, but rejected many of the Pharisaic ideas.

Jesus came to fulfill the law of Moses. To “**fulfill**” means simply “**to fill,**” “**to enforce**” or **to express it in its full significance.** There is a 3-fold understanding of fulfillment:

1. The Old Testament contains “doctrinal teaching.” The “Torah” which is translated to mean “law” has to do with “revealed instruction.” The Old Testament does indeed instruct us about God and man and salvation, but it is not a word of instruction for man to be saved. Jesus “fulfilled” it all in the sense of bringing salvation to a completion by His Persons, His teaching and His work.

2. The Old Testament contains “Predictive Prophecy.” Much of the Old Testament looks forward to the days of the Messiah and foretell of His coming. Jesus “fulfilled” it in the sense that what was predicted come to pass.

3. The Old Testament contains “Ethical Precepts.” These moral laws of God were often misunderstood and disobeyed. Jesus “fulfilled” them in revealing the full depth of their meaning and calling them to the great commandment of love.

● **John 1:17 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

God’s Kingdom is a Kingdom of Righteousness. God’s righteousness is a heart-righteousness.

● **Jeremiah 31:33 (KJV)**

<sup>33</sup> 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.

● **Ezekiel 36:27 (KJV)**

<sup>27</sup> And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

● **Matthew 5:21-26 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

<sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

<sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

<sup>25</sup> Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

<sup>26</sup> Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

A “**Christian Righteousness: Avoiding Anger and Lust**”

The revelation God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai were the 10 commandments which are known as the decalogue. Here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus refers to the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” The Pharisees interpreted this to only mean taking one’s physical life, prohibition of the act of murder. However, Jesus insisted that the commandment in its true sense prohibited not only murder, but every evil working of the heart and mind; which led to it such as unjust anger with contempt and provoking language. For the law to condemn murder is for man to abstain from all that might lead to the culmination of wickedness. Jesus would say that “thou shalt not kill,” really signifies “thou shalt not hate.”

● **Genesis 2:7, 8, 18, 21-24 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

<sup>8</sup> And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

<sup>18</sup> And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

<sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

<sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

### **The Ten Commandments**

● **Exodus 20:1-7 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> And God spake all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup> Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

<sup>6</sup> And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

● **Deuteronomy 5:6-21 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

<sup>8</sup> Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:

<sup>9</sup> Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

<sup>10</sup> And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>11</sup> Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

<sup>12</sup> Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee.

<sup>13</sup> Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:

<sup>14</sup> But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

<sup>15</sup> And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

<sup>16</sup> Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

<sup>17</sup> Thou shalt not kill.

<sup>18</sup> Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

<sup>19</sup> Neither shalt thou steal.

<sup>20</sup> Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.

<sup>21</sup> Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

There is great emphasis in the Bible on children. The Bible favors the children.

● **Deuteronomy 11:8, 19-23 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

<sup>19</sup> And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

<sup>20</sup> And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

<sup>21</sup> That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

<sup>22</sup> For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

<sup>23</sup> Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

● **Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

<sup>4</sup> As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

<sup>5</sup> Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

● **Matthew 19:14 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus also speaks of insulting words like raca (idiot) or fool. Raca is an insult to a person's intelligence. Jesus used the word fool.

- **Luke 12:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

- **Psalm 14:1 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

The words idiot and fool within themselves are not sinful. Jesus is saying that using these words can so very easily lead a person or provoke a person to violent behavior. Anger and insult are ugly symptoms of a desire to get rid of somebody who stands in our way. They can cause hatred, hostility and even death.