

Study of Matthew

September 4, 2022

Discussion Question: What conduct in your life reveals your righteousness?

Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus moves from describing the characteristics of citizens in the Kingdom of God to the righteousness of the Kingdom.

- Righteous conduct in contrast to self-righteousness

When you start a discussion on the law or obeying commandments a heated discussion arises between being legalistic and having liberty.

Statements are thrown about to solidify one's position.

The statements are endless and again I will not try to solve two thousand years of arguing over things that we should not argue over. I do hope to give some basic instruction that aligns us with the Word of God that we are to live by. It is our manual!

In Romans 7 Paul gives us some great instructions.

- The law respects the character of God. It is holy.
- The law is a restraint against sin.
- The law reveals what is pleasing to God.
 - Paul states , Romans 7:22 "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:"
 - David, man after God's own heart, "Oh how I love thy law!"

When Jesus said, I did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it, HE is telling us that HE came to complete or bring into being the things that the law and the prophets spoke of and pointed to. A great question to ask is, what has changed in God's nature to make a practice God regarded as a capital offense during one point of history now something HE delights in?

Here is the point, if the God who said you are to have no other gods before me under the law, now under grace says is it o.k. to have other gods then HE violates HIS own character.

God in the OT says price gouging (unjust weight) is an abomination. Proverbs 11:1 "*A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.*" [KJV] Some would argue, that ain't in the New Covenant. But, when people wanted to come into the Kingdom, Jesus did not respond, oh don't worry about how you treat others...I am giving you grace.

Matt 7:11 "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: **for this is the law and the prophets.***" [KJV]

In any study of the law, commandments, statutes, testimonies as it relates to the Old Testament it is helpful to categorize them.

To be clear this is done to study them, it is not a construct that is seen in scripture.

- Moral Law – These are ordinances that are based in God’s holy nature. Regulations on justice, respect, sexual conduct & this would include the 10 Commandments.
- Ceremonial Law – These dealt with sacrifices, remembering God’s work in history through feast and festivals. Regulations that distinguished Israel from Gentiles by dietary law, circumcision. Paul is clear that we do not have to follow these. Jesus completes these by being that once for all require sacrifice.
- Judicial Law – This has to do with civil law. Regulations from murder to restitution if your ox gored someone. Responsibility on digging a pit. Penalties for various crimes, rules for business transactions and how to treat servants. Much of America’s judicial system is founded on the Judicial Law of the Old Testament

Jesus word’s give us the best insight on why we should look at God’s law and learn from it:

Matthew 5:17 *"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came **to accomplish their purpose.**"* [NLT]

The law has purpose! Paul addresses that in:

Romans 15:4 *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime (former days) were written for our learning (instruction), that we through patience (endurance) and comfort (encouragement) of the scriptures might have hope."* [KJV / ESV]

Deuteronomy 6:24-25 *"And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, **for our good always**, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. 25 **And it shall be our righteousness**, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us."* [KJV]

vs. 20 *"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."*

The Scribes and Pharisees were known to

- Say and not do
- To do things to be seen
- To neglect parts of God’s Law (usually the weightier matters)
- To be lovers of money

But we have to have a righteousness that exceeds/is better than that! When we walk in HIS righteousness we will:

- Combine faith with deeds
- Live Consistent lives (private and public)
- Observe Jesus Commands
- Not be charmed by materialism

We are made righteous by faith, the blood and the Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:11 *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

2 Cor 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* [KJV]