

Lunch Time Bible Study
God With Us
A Study of Matthew: "Fulfill the Law"
Matthew 5:17-20

January 30, 2018

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
(Matthew 5:20)

I. The Law Must Be Loosed

- a. Jesus informs us that He is not doing away with Law, but He is abolishing the crooked institutions that have corrupted the understanding God's original intent. (Exodus 19:5-6)
- b. The Pharisees had written a thousand rules and regulations concerning keeping the Sabbath holy, which in fact bound the people in legalism. Examples:
 1. A new lamp can be moved from one place to another on the Sabbath, but not an old one.
 2. A donkey may go out on the Sabbath wearing its saddle cloth if it was placed on before the Sabbath.
- c. Other rules for daily living regulated by Jewish law: When does one begin the morning prayers? How does one treat produce that may or may not have had the priestly gifts separated from it? Can cheese and meat be on the same table? How much drawn water invalidates a ritual bath?
- d. Righteousness does not begin with obeying rules, it begins with our love for God.
- e. The Pharisees turned God's covenant of grace into a covenant of works, which severely limited their relationship with God. The Pharisees broke the laws they wanted others to obey.
- f. Their religion was a dead ritual, not a living relationship. It led to bondage and not liberty.
- g. True righteousness is not demonstrated by external correctness, but inward obedience that is reflected outwardly. (Romans 3:21)
- h. Abolish (*katalyo, Gr.*) means to loose or unloose what was before bound. (Read Matthew 24:2; 26:61; 27:40) Jesus came to provide true meaning to the moral law.
- i. The "jot" is the Greek iota (ι), the Hebrew yod (י), the smallest of all the letters of the alphabet. The "tittle" was one of the smaller strokes, or twists of other letters.

II. The Law Must Be Accomplished

- a. Fulfill (*pleroo, Gr.*) mean to make full. To fill a vessel or hollow place. *Fulfill* is to fill full.
- b. The word *fulfill* has two figurative meanings regarding the Law: 1) *to make their teachings come true* 2) *to bring the Law and the prophets to completion*
- c. How does *abolish* and *fulfill* work together? (Illustration: An acorn can be crushed or planted)
- d. Jesus fulfilled God's Law in every area of His life. He was born under the law. (Gal 4:4) He submitted to Jewish rituals. He never sinned against the law.
- e. Jesus opened the way for our righteousness without manmade temples, animal sacrifices and religious rituals.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. God is interested in loyalty not legalism. How can we fulfill the Law? By yielding to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to work in our lives. (Rom 8:1-3)
- b. Things always get off track whenever man tries to regulate/ legislate morality.
- c. Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the N.T. epistles and commanded to believers.
- d. We will exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees as we obey the greatest commandment. *Jesus replied, "This is the most important: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."* (Mark 12:29-31)