



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

Matthew 5:17-20 ESV

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”
People – “Thanks be to God.”

[PRAY]

[INTRO]

We have been reading now over the last two weeks in our Bible reading plans through Leviticus and Numbers, witnessing the giving of the Law and the establishment of traditions/sacrifices. You may have found yourself challenged with reading all of it, what may have seemed like a monotonous task, but know that God made sure that when the canon (the finalized Bible) was solidified by our forefathers this too was a part of it. Even though we are no longer under the Mosaic/Mt. Sinai Covenant, that covenant has been replaced with the new one we see in [Ezekiel 36:26](#); [Jeremiah 31:33](#), this section of scripture is still immensely important and not just for the obvious reason of moral training ([see the three-fold use of the law](#)).

As a matter of fact, Jesus believed that all the OT was important for living even though many of our modern preachers don't hold to that same sentiment and show it by their preaching. But I want to show you today, if you



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

will listen to this passage today, it's breakdown here's what you can walk away with.

MP:

**Adhering to God's Word means resting
in Jesus' achievements.**

In order to understand and receive this rest we will look at the Work that needs to be accomplished, the Wrong teaching/beliefs that needs to be addressed, and the Way that must be accepted to find the rest we so desperately need.

1. The WORK that must be Accomplished. (17-18)

What is this Work?

Why are we saying there is a work to be done, well just go to the end of v.18 and the sentence ends with the word "**accomplished**", it is the Indirect Object of the sentence. This is what the **law** (direct object) must do, because not one "**iota or dot**" will pass away (subject: the smallest symbols in the Hebrew alphabet) it must finish a thing. Let me go back for one moment from our earlier observation, if you are reading the OT/Law/Prophets and you merely view it as a failed story of the Jewish people, or perhaps as a time where Salvation came to the Jewish people in a different way (Dispensationalist View) then according to Jesus' commentary here, you read that wrong. Jesus believed that the Law was still good, and whatever the reason it was given for, it was still not finished yet.

Now to figure out His meaning, we must keep this comment of His within the context of who He delivered it to, and when He delivered it.

Jesus is making a comment about the Law and all the teachings on the Law by the Prophets because what just came out of His Sermon didn't sound like law at all. We spent 10 weeks working our way through the beatitudes which talks about the character of a Christian or a 'true God-fearer' which described what it meant to be broken down by the law (regeneration), and then



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

described what it looked like to live out of a changed heart (conversion). Then last week Mike talked about the Salt and Light (what a great reminder post-election that we cannot rely on the government to be salt and light for that is a corrupt source) which was what that particular person living out the beatitudes, when they have gone through that change, must do!

Then Jesus takes this opportunity to further explain He is not in any way diminishing the reality, the existence, and the necessity of the Law. That is to say, **what Jesus is preaching does not cancel out the OBLIGATIONS of the OT**. And we are not just talking about the Torah, but all the OT as in all the things that the Prophets said must be done, the prophecies, in order to bring in this Kingdom of Heaven.

If anything, Jesus, well the only way to put it, has just made the entrance into this Kingdom harder than what the Pharisees were teaching. Jesus was saying that to get into the Kingdom of Heaven, to live under God's reign with favor, that it is not just a matter of mere works, but it must be a matter of the heart as well. **One must be good inside and out!**

That is the work that must be accomplished, **the law must be perfected**, all its **moral laws** or what we can call the **absolute laws** like the 10 commandments. Along with that you have the **conditional laws** or **ethical law**, "you have heard it said if this then that" commands. Those two categories combined to make up 613 written commands in the Torah. AND it needs to be done without any form of resentment in one's heart. Who's up for that challenge?! **Perfect adherence to the Law** is what must be accomplished, that's the first thing we learn here.

Who must do it?

Let's go back to Jesus' words for it is only in His words family can we find hope. ¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them." Now we can all say "**AMEN**". Jesus said I have come **not** to get rid of them, I came to fulfill¹ them.

¹ The KJV translates Strong's G4137 in the following manner: [fulfil](#) (51x), [fill](#) (19x), [be full](#) (7x), [complete](#) (2x), [end](#) (2x), [miscellaneous](#) (9x).



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

That doesn't mean change, that doesn't mean to replace, it means the structure that the law left Jesus was going to fill it in, TO THE POINT that there would be no more requirement in it/obligation.

Matthew even left us a clue in his recording of this sermon. The beatitudes had been written in 3rd person, "**blessed is he**" ... Then last week Pastor Mike pointed out that there is an emphasis placed on "**you**" the 2nd person, as if to say you find yourself changed as Jesus described it is your obligation to live out that life. Then here in vs.17-18 it funnels into "**I**" first person, Matthew is pointing this out in his recording how Salvation works, it is the **work of I!** Then you will notice that it funnels back out into the 6 teachings on the interpretation of the law, as evidenced by the change heart that Jesus redeemed, remade, and released!

So, 2nd we are learning that Jesus must be the one that **lives in perfect adherence to the Law**, and again we say Amen.

How will Jesus accomplish this work?

Where does Jesus even get this idea that He has to be the one to do it? Glad you asked, it comes after the New Covenant passages in Jeremiah 31 as in explaining how this new agreement with God will happen.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 ESV

¹⁴"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a **righteous Branch** to spring up for **David**, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

- **A Perfect Life**

Jesus is the branch, and He is righteous, and it is His job, his inheritance, His calling, to execute justice and righteousness in the land, to **FULFILL** it! At the end of all the law and the teachings of the prophets there must come a Son of



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

God, a Son of man, and that person must do it. Through Him His people will be saved, and He shall be known as the "**Jehovah Sedeq**", the righteousness of the Lord.

Of which Paul agreed and expounded on this need of accomplishment by Jesus.

Romans 3:21-22 ESV

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

The Law required a perfect adherence which required a perfect heart for loving God and neighbor and Jesus was the only one that fit that description. Again, we thank God for what he has done, and we receive that through FAITH!

- ***A Prophetic Foretelling***²

Jesus not only had to be righteous, but he also had to fit the description of the one who was to do it, that's all the prophecies that the prophets were talking about.

Isaiah 7:14 – "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son."

Isaiah 9:6 – "unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders."

Micah 5:2 – "out of you (Bethlehem) will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel."

Zechariah 9:9 – "See your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt."

Psalms 22:18 – "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

There are over 300 prophecies on the Messiah and Jesus fulfilled all of them.³

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-Christ.html>

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

- **A Pure Belief**

Now another incredible thing about our Savior is that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies, believing they were pointing to Him. Jesus had a pure belief, that is He accepted God's Word, as Truth, as Instructions, with Authority over His life. He believed in what we call

- **Verbal:** Every word in the Bible is God-given.
- **Plenary:** All parts of the Bible are divinely authoritative.
- **Inspiration:** God supernaturally guided the biblical authors to write exactly what He wanted expressed.

How do we know that? Well because of how He talked about the OT. He accepted the Bible as fact. He referred to:⁴

Abel – Luke 11:51

Noah – Mat. 24:37-39

Abraham – John 8:56

Lot – Luke 17:28-32

Isaac & Jacob – Mat. 8:11

Manna from Heaven – John 6:31

Wilderness Serpent – John 3:14

David – Mat. 22:43

Solomon – Mat. 6:29; 12:42

Elijah – Luke 4:25-26

Jonah – Mat. 12:39-51

Moses – Matt.8:4

Sodom & Gomorrah – Mat. 10:15;
11:23-24

Meaning he believed in the accounts of Creation, Fall, Flood, and the miracles of the OT that many current Christians reject. And we cannot forget that Jesus chose OT passages to battle the Devil in the wilderness depending on the authority of God's Word to overcome and defeat evil.

Jesus accomplished ALL His work from adherence to the Law, and fulfilling all prophecies because He took the Bible, all of it, as **the authoritative Word of God.**

Christian, Family, simply before we move on let me ask you a question this morning, do you treat God's Word with the seriousness as Jesus treated it?

⁴ Daniel L. Akin, [Exalting Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount](#)/Christ-Centered Exposition (Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing, 2019), P. 32.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

Do you rely on it, on what it says for your life and well-being? Is it something you give priority to, is it what you rely on to face the world, do you allow it to shape your worldview, is it your comfort when you are tempted, does it guide your morality as a trainer for Godliness, does it right now put you in awe of your Savior? Let me just say this, the more you hold the Word of God in **reverence** the more you will hold your Lord in **reverence** the two go hand in hand.

Adhering to God's Word means resting in Jesus' achievements.

If you can't do this, you are going to have a hard time resting in the work that Jesus has done for you.

Well, along with defining the Work that needs accomplishing, Jesus also sees a need for addressing the Wrong, that existed in His day.

2. The WRONG that must be Addressed. (19)

¹⁹ Therefore whoever **relaxes** one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus identifies a wrong that must be addressed, and that is the teaching of the Pharisees. That word in the ESV **relax**, comes from the Greek Word λύω lýō, ⁵ which I have finally come across a word I am not crazy about in the ESV translation. I like how the ASV and the Legacy Standard use the word **annul**; to break ties with a thing like a marriage, or to release from a covenant, that which should not be separated. Whatever word you choose to use what's the big deal you should ask?

Jesus saw the Pharisees spending so much time on teaching the observance of the law, if you remember they had at this point along with the 613 written laws had contrived hundreds of other oral traditions, that went along with the law like how to wash your hands, how to wash your dishes, and it's still alive

⁵ λύω lýō, loo'-o; a primary verb; to "loosen" (literally or figuratively):—break (up), destroy, dissolve, (un-)loose, melt, put off. Compare [G4486](#).



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

today. There is a modern orthodox Jew that teaches on YouTube⁶ how to make coffee, and use the bathroom on Shabbat, crazy right, like did you know you can't change your toilet paper roll on Sabbath!?! That's how crazy people can get when they are chasing personal righteousness or a righteousness that comes from within themselves, but Jesus said **I have come to fulfill the law**, Jesus wants to save us from all that work, all those ways of killing ourselves trying to make us feel better by the works we do.

So, what He's accusing the Jews, the Pharisees and scribes of doing, is divorcing the law from the intent of the law, what it was meant to convey and produce. Here's what they were cutting out of the Torah.

Deuteronomy 6:5 ESV

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Leviticus 19:18 ESV

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The Pharisees had annulled the heart from the works, that had softened the teaching of the law, as in **one's heart is the part of you that leads out in the obedience of the law, that your works are generated from one's soul**. They had made their lives a spreadsheet of behavior, I know, I used to do that for people for a living. I would spend weeks charting behaviors for people so we could determine their successes in the scholastic setting. That has nothing to do with the heart, that had everything to do with trying to portray social acceptability.

But we see the stance of Jesus in His correction of this teaching as we near the end of His ministry in Matthew as He realigns and rejoins the correct teaching of the law.

Matthew 22:34-40 ESV

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/@mosesandzippora>



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

The Law, the ability to live it correctly, ALL depends, Jesus said, on how one loves! The Law used in any other way than to demonstrate a love for others and not for self, is damning.

As Paul points out:

Romans 3:19-20 ESV

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. ²⁰ For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

The Law while good for teaching about righteousness in no way provides righteousness! Again, just like the beatitudes it is not a map for how to gain Salvation, but it is description for living for those who are saved.

So, Jesus has corrected a wrong, that wrong is that you cannot produce righteous works without a righteous heart. Family today, perhaps that is a problem you are encountering. You like going to church, you like living in an evangelical bubble, but you have decided not to try and love the difficult people in your life, then you have missed the whole point. You may be headed for the title of **"least in the Kingdom"** (v.19).

As people from the far left are cursing those who voted for Trump this week you have said good riddance, that's not love, **I call us to pray for them.**



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

As family and friends in our lives have unfriended us on social media, have argued with us, have mocked our names, shunned our ideas, and slandered our names, did you forget that was supposed to happen, **I call us to love them more with kindness.**

HCC how are you going to practice not annulling the intent from the law from the commands of it, will you practice love today?

If you try to **Adhering to God's Word** I promise you that you will find more **rest in Jesus' achievements** over the holidays than trying to do it through gloating or social isolation. But lastly, even if you may be having a problem accepting that truth, that call, know even when you fail at it, or your heart is reluctant to follow along, please let me explain this last part to you.

3. The WAY that must be Accepted. (20)

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

Alright there it is, unless we exceed the righteousness of those that make it a practice of being externally good, then we CANNOT enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Now we just explained that means the heart as well, your heart has to want to do these things. So, in order to gain entrance into this Kingdom what way do we need to accept? We have to accept what we alluded to in point 1, there is only one way into this Kingdom, and it comes through the work of the Son whose heart was pure so that His works were righteous. But that includes more than just a righteous life it includes a payment for sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 3:13-14 ESV

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—¹⁴ so that in Christ



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

You see this too IS the fulfillment of all the law every iota and every dot:

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 ESV

"And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Jesus bore in Himself the curse for sin which was death, death on a tree, death in public humility, and he endured the wrath of God, the only man that ever lived a righteous life.

[CHALLENGE]

Family, you have to accept that it doesn't matter how good you think you are, it doesn't matter how many works of law you do, how good you can make people feel, nor how much you give to charity, it doesn't matter how much you have suffered, it doesn't matter how much you have endured, if you DO NOT accept the fact that you are a sinner separated from God, and you have no hope, and you CANNOT enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

Because if you don't accept that fact you REJECT the BIBLE, You REJECT what Jesus believed, and you REJECT His offer to you. BUT if you RECEIVE this offer by FAITH, you will have eternal life.

MP:

**Adhering to God's Word means resting
in Jesus' achievements.**

Are you resting today? What does resting look like? It doesn't mean you don't sin anymore; it doesn't mean you don't have to keep repenting or turning away



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

from this world, BUT it does mean believing you are no longer condemned by your actions. Is that you?

Family let us go to God now and pray for those around us that are not accepting of these facts, let's choose love, let's choose that God opens their eyes to their need of Him, and let's thank Him once more for His life and death on our behalf.

[PRAYER]

[CALL TO OBEY]

Acts 17:30-31

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

[COMMUNION]

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. That He never was found to have broken any of those 613 rules, that He fulfilled all the prophecies, that He believed all the Bible as authoritative, as only He could do, and know as our King He passed that righteousness onto us. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. That He was hung on a tree as traitor to God, in our place, to face our penalty of death. That blood He had to shed and we must accept as the only payment that gets us into the Kingdom of Heaven. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"

Congregation - the London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 8 Section 4a

4a. Jesus' Atoning Work

Jesus willingly accepted this office. 21 In order to fulfill it, he was born under the law. 22 He perfectly fulfilled the law and suffered the punishment we deserved, which we should have endured and suffered. 23 He was made sin and a curse for us.

21. Psalms 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:5-10; John 10:18

22. Galatians 4:4; Matthew 3:15

23. Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that provided us the only way we could enter into His Kingdom, the free gift of His only begotten Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that incarnated under the law to bring about the perfection of it, dying a death for us, so we too may be made righteous.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that has open our eyes to way of Salvation that must be accepted, and empowers us to share that message of hope with others.

Small Group Questions:

1. How does knowing that the Old Testament point to Jesus change the way you read it?
2. Why do you think it is difficult for many to trust the accuracy of the Bible? Do you think your cultural influences what you trust? Why or why not?
3. Jesus teaches that all of Scripture should be obeyed. What parts of Scripture do you find most difficult to obey? Why?? How might we help one another to obey those parts?
4. How can we tell when we are pursuing an external, legalistic righteousness and when we are pursuing an internal, spiritual righteousness? What are some examples in your past of these two?
5. Read Ezekiel 36:24-28. How does this passage affect our understanding of how we attain a surpassing righteousness?



Sermon on the Mount
Wk.12 "The Goodness of the Law"
By Pastor Jody May 11/10/2024

[BIBLIOGRAPHY]

Akin, Daniel L. [*Exalting Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount*](#)/Christ-Centered Exposition. (Brentwood, TN: B&H Publishing, 2019).

Lloyd-Jones, [*Martyn D. Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*](#)/One Volume Edition. (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1976).

MacArthur, John. [*The Beatitudes*](#)/Topical Sermon Series. Grace to You Ministries. *Happy are the Peacemakers.*
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-199/the-only-way-to-happiness-endure-persecution-part-2> (1978-1979), Web 2024.

Morris, Leon. [*The Gospel according to Matthew*](#)/The New Pillar Commentary. (Grand Rapids, MI: Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992).

O'Brien, Peter, T. [*The Letter to the Ephesians*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1999), 205.

Stott, John R. [*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*](#)/Revised Edition. (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2020).

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016).