

The Gospel of Matthew #42

Sermon on the Mount: Six Examples of the Right Use of the Law:

1. Overview of the Contrasts

General principles in 5:17-20: Review:

- I. The Law and Jesus: v17-18
 - A. Not abolish but fulfill: v17
 - B. Not disappear but accomplished: v18
- II. The Law and you: v19-20
 - A. Fidelity to the Law means greatness IN the Kingdom: v19
 - B. Righteousness more than Pharisees to ENTER the Kingdom: v20

HOW TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE'S COMMANDS

Matthew 5:21-48

I. The _____ of the Contrasts

NOT Moses v Jesus! Clue: v43

Clear: the way Jesus refers to the OT:

"It is written" (e.g. 4:4, 7, 10)

But here He says, "You have heard that it was said" or "It has been said" (v21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43). This refers to the Pharisees' **teaching** about the Law.

The contrast is between **Pharisees'** and **Jesus' teaching**

Note also Jesus' authority: "But *I* say..." (cf. 7:28-9) Unique!

II. The _____ of the Contrasts

Jesus gives 6 examples of God's commands:

- 3 **negative**: murder (v21-26), adultery (v27-30), breaking oaths (v33-37)
- 1 **positive**: love (v43-48)
- 2 **permissions**: divorce (v31-32), retribution (v38-42)

They try to make the burden of the Law's requirements more manageable to our own abilities

Specifically:

They restrict the commands so less demanding: the act alone

They extend the permissions so more permissive

Jesus reverses both of these distortions to show that the commands are always aimed at the heart. Motives. Thoughts.

He presses the full demands of God's character, revealed in His Law. In case you miss it in each case, He concludes with **v48!**

This seems to be harsher than the Pharisees! See v20.

But it is the foundation for the Gospel.

Which He does *not* state at this point.

You must feel the full weight of the Law unto despair of your goodness, until it makes you **run** to Christ (remember beatitudes? 5:3ff

Then hints: 9:4-8, 12-13; 11:28-30; 20:28; 26:28

Til the apostles spell out Justification by faith in His sacrifice.

Amazing thing is that we *forget!* Again and again, even as Christians.

So we live in miserable denial.

And Jesus comes again to you in Matt 5 to show you your need of Him— because you will never keep these commands, addressed to your heart.

But then a strange thing happens. As you come in your spiritual poverty to Christ, He changes your heart and you actually begin to look more like the commands.

Because He changes your heart.

And it becomes evident to you that that is HIS work.
and HE gets the glory.

***I invite you to discuss this and every sermon with me
in Auxiliary Classroom #5 at 10 a.m. between services.***