

"The Sermon on the Mount"

Matthew 5:17-20

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Sermon on the Mount we looked at Matthew 5:17 and we also looked at the background for the statement that Jesus made in this verse. In verses 13-16 Jesus spoke with His disciples about how the characteristics found in the Beatitudes were to be lived out in their lives. They were to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Then we arrive at 5:17 where Jesus addresses the thoughts of those that were around Him that day.

Notice 5:17

The reason Jesus spoke those words was because those around him were wondering about His view of the Old Testament Scriptures. You see His teaching was far different from the Scribes and the Pharisees. The Scribes and the Pharisees were busy teaching their own traditions with thousands of rules and regulations which were doing nothing but binding people in legalism.

Jesus however was teaching grace and forgiveness. His teaching was setting people free from legalism. His company was also different from that of the religious leaders. You see Jesus spent time with sinners and publicans where as the religious leaders viewed themselves too good to be associated with them. The bottom line was that Jesus teaching completely over turned the teaching of the Scribes and the Pharisee. Therefore, many were wondering where Jesus stood concerning the law and the prophets.

So in verse 17 Jesus made it very clear that He did not come to destroy the law and the prophets but He came to fulfill them. Now last week I told you that Jesus is the central figure of the Bible both the Old and New Testament. Every sacrifice, every feast, and every ceremony found in the Old Testament pointed to Jesus Christ. The words of the prophets all pointed to Jesus.

Therefore He fulfilled the law in 3 ways:

- 1. He fulfilled the moral Law of God. He never once violated the moral Law of God while He walked on this earth.**
- 2. He fulfilled the ceremonial law when He died on the cross. He was the ultimate Sacrifice for the sins of the world.**
- 3. He was the fulfillment of the prophecies which spoke of the Messiah and some are yet to be fulfilled in the future.**

Tonight we come to Matthew 5:18 but before we look at this verse let me borrow your mind. Today the Word of God is being attacked from all sides. Just recently I commented on something that was on the news through my computer by email. The subject was homosexuality and I quoted Romans 1:26 where Paul tells us that homosexuality is the result of God's judgment as He has lifted the moral restraints from the minds of those who have suppressed the Truth of His Word. When I sent that email my computer was flooded with responses to what I sent. You need to know that what I sent as a comment was out in the open to be viewed by all who desired to read the comment.

Here is what someone wrote about the 2 men who are going to marry;

"You guys are gorgeous together, wishing you a long and happy life together and for what its worth, this Christian thinks Jesus would be just fine with the two of you being together."

Here is exactly what I wrote in response to the article;

"You apparently do not have any idea who Jesus is or what He stands for. Read Romans 1:26. Homosexuality is a form of God's judgment on this nation. When people suppress the Truth of God it is then that God removes the moral restraints from the people. Romans 1:26 tells you that "God gave them up unto VILE affections". This lifestyle is an abomination to our Lord and is a sign we are under the judgment of God as a nation!!"

Here are several of the responses that were sent back to me;

- *"Those are Paul's writings. Pope JP II officially declared that several other writings of Paul be disregarded due to the cultural basis of them at the time. Why then should other culturally based writings be reason for your bigotry and hatred? They too may be officially disregarded by the Catholic Church in time."*
- *"Hello the Bible was written by MEN with opinions just like your tainted one."*
- *"No one has suppressed your freedom of speech, or your VILE affection for hatred. Your perverse understanding of Jesus and God has been noted and filed under abomination."*

I give you all of this just to show you how the Word of God is being viewed today. People desire to pick and choose that which fits their lives and the rest of the Scriptures they say do not apply to them. Then there are those who just flat out deny the Authority of God's Word.

So how do we know that the Old Testament which we have in our possession is really the Word of God? I want to take some time and show how we know the Old Testament that we have is the Word of God.

History tells us that the Hebrew Old Testament had 22 total books where as our Old Testament has 39. Let me show you a list of the Hebrew Old Testament books.

Genesis	Ezekiel	Malachi
Exodus	Hosea	Psalms
Leviticus	Joel	Proverbs
Numbers	Amos	Job
Deuteronomy	Obadiah	Song of Solomon
Joshua	Jonah	Ecclesiastes
Judges-Ruth	Micah	Ester
1 st and 2 nd Samuel	Naham	Daniel
1 st and 2 nd Kings	Habakkuk	Ezra-Nehemiah
Isaiah	Haggai	1 st and 2 nd Chronicles
Jeremiah-Lamentations	Zechariah	

This was the order of the books of the Hebrew Old Testament. The reason the numbers are different from our Old Testament is because some of the books were combined to make one book. However if you compare the list to our Bible you will see that it is exactly the same as our Old Testament. But that still does not confirm these books as the

complete Old Testament not does it confirm they are inspired Scripture.

Let us now consider a statement that Jesus made to the Scribes and the Pharisees;

Luke 11:50-51

⁵⁰ That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation;

⁵¹ From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

These are two of the most important verses in the Bible. Jesus was speaking to the scribes and the Pharisees. In verse 50 He made reference to the blood of ALL the prophets then in verse 51 He made a sweeping statement that took in all the prophets that were ever slain starting with the blood of Abel the entire way through to the blood of Zacharias. Now let me tell you the importance of that statement. The blood of Abel is found in the book of Genesis and the blood of Zacharias is found in 2 Chronicles. That is the first and the last book of the Hebrew Old Testament. Therefore with this sweeping statement Jesus confirmed the Old Testament that we possess as the complete Old Testament. Therefore we know the Old Testament is complete because the One Who died and rose from the dead and is alive forever more has confirmed it for us.

Now we come to our verses for tonight.

I. The Permanence of God's Word.

Notice Matthew 5:18

Let's remember that the people were looking for something that was a little less demanding than the rules and the regulations of the Pharisees. But Jesus did not lower the bar for them but instead He raised the standard far higher than anyone else had taken it. **He completely destroys the teaching of the religious leaders and tells them every book, chapter, verse, word, letter and punctuation found in God's Word would be fulfilled before the passing away of heaven and earth.**

The word "verily" here means "that which is sure" or something that is "absolutely a guarantee". This word is the same as "amen".

There are several points to be made concerning this verse.

- 1. Every book, every verse, every word, every letter and every punctuation of God's Word is inspired by God and cannot be changed or ignored.**

The first word of this verse is very important because it connects this verse to the previous verse. Jesus tells us He had come to fulfill the law and the prophets and then in verse 18 He gives us the reason why. It is because the Word of God is the absolute Truth. Every book, chapter, verse, word, letter and stroke of the pen in the Bible is the eternal Word of God.

The "jot" in the Hebrew Bible would be similar to the "dot" above the letter "i". The "tittle" in the Hebrew Bible would be the smallest of lines that would distinguish one letter from another just like our "E" and "F". It is only a small line that separates the two letters. To change

either the "jot" or the "tittle" would change the meaning of the word as well as the thought.

Application:

This statement made by our Lord shows the absolute Authority of the Bible. When the day comes that this old world and the atmosphere around us passes away, and it will, there will be only one Book left standing and it will be the Bible. All other writings will be burned up when this world is destroyed.

The Bible that you and I carry is the eternal, inspired Word of God. Every Word in this Book is inspired and must not be changed. This is exactly why the "newer" versions of the Bible are so dangerous. Words have been changed and omitted which is completely in contrast to the way Jesus viewed the Bible. He said every part of It is the inspired Word of God.

I want to take a moment and show you how important the Words of the Bible are and why we need to pay very close attention to ALL of them.

Notice Matthew 22:23-32

Here in this passage Jesus shows us the important of the "tense" of the words "I am". They are in the present tense not the past. He does not say that God "was" the God of these men but He says that God "is" the God of these men. Therefore, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are still alive spiritually and their bodies will one day be resurrected.

2. We must do all we can to protect God's Word.

How do we as believers protect the Word of God?

Notice Matthew 5:19

In the middle of this verse we see that we are to do two things with the Word of God;

1. Live it. - "but whosoever shall DO and teach"

The Gospel According To You...

There's a Gospel according to Matthew; To Mark;
To Luke; and John too.

There's another gospel that many are reading...
The Gospel according to You.

All teachings we find in the Bible
Are facts we know to be true;
You must live them to make them the Gospel...
The Gospel according to You

Many read not the words of the Bible;
I will tell you what some of them do...
They are reading the book you are writing...
The Gospel according to you.

There's Great Power In Gospel Preaching
The Bible teaches that this is true.
But the sermon most likely to influence others
Is The Gospel according to You.

God help us to be faithful to Jesus...
To live all His teachings so true,
So that all may see His Spirit
In the Gospel according to You

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day;
By things that you do; By things you say.

Others read that gospel, whether faithless or true!
Say! What is the Gospel According To You?

Leroy Brownlow

2. Teach it. - "but whosoever shall do and TEACH"

2 Timothy 4:2

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Conclusion:

We must always be prepared to defend the Truth of God's Word as it comes under attack.

Jude :3

³ Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.