

Jesus, Us and the Law

Matthew 5:17-42

Sermon Discussion Questions

July 23, 2023

1. Do you believe that your good deeds will earn you a spot in heaven? How has this sermon challenged that belief?
2. What are some situations where you follow the letter of the law but not the spirit of the law? How different would those situations look or turn out if you followed the Spirit and not just the letter of the law?
3. Have you struggled to understand the idea of Jesus fulfilling the law before? Which of the five views of the phrase, "I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them (the law and prophets)," have you held? What has led you to view the law this way?
 - Jesus came to keep and obey the law, so that his actions fulfill the righteous requirement of the Law.
 - Jesus came to fulfill the law in that he explains it.
 - Jesus came to "supersede" or "do away" with the Law.
 - Jesus came to tell people to obey the law.
 - Jesus came to provide the salvation promised in the Old Testament.
4. How has this sermon made this idea clearer? What questions do you still have?
5. Understanding and articulating the relationship we are called to have with the Law as a Christian is difficult – practice explaining to your peers how you would answer the question: as a Christian, what is your relationship to the OT law? Encourage each other and help each other to construct an answer as you each share.
6. How does this teaching strengthen or challenge your view of the Old Testament?
7. How do you personally show Jesus that you love him through obeying his commands? Which commands are easier to do out of love, rather than obligation? How can following God's law with Jesus be a joy rather than a burden?