

## Walking Through the Mount - 2

### Jesus and the Law – Matthew 5:17-20

Introduction: After introducing ourselves again to the Sermon on the Mount, we began a casual study of The Beatitudes and their relationship to conversion and completion of the Christian mind. Today we continue our “Walk Through the Mount” by examining Jesus’ statement concerning the Law of Moses in Matthew 5:17-20.

Body: Jesus and the Law

1. “Do not think that I am come to destroy the Law. I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”
  - a. The word here translated “destroy” appears as abolish in some translations. Such is not a proper rendering.
  - b. There is a difference in destroying and abolishing /annulling a thing:
    - i. Destroy - Matthew 26:61
    - ii. Abolish - Romans 3:3, 2 Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:15
  - c. The Law foretold its annulment through Jesus and the Gospel:
    - i. Deuteronomy 18:18-20 - Jesus = the prophet like Moses
    - ii. Jeremiah 31:31-34 - the Gospel = the new covenant
    - iii. Acts 3:18-25
2. ‘What you do and teach regarding the Law affects your eternal destiny.’
  - a. The law was still in effect during the days of Jesus:
    - i. Jesus commanded men to keep the law: Matthew 8:4, 19:16-17
    - ii. Jesus condemned men for violating the law: Matthew 15:1-9
  - b. The law was on the way out beginning with the ministry of John the Baptizer - Luke 16:16 (cf Hebrews 8:6-13)

3. ‘Your righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees.’
  - a. This verse is often used in the context of giving on the Lord’s Day: e.g., ‘The Pharisees were tithers (Matt 23:23) and we must exceed that if we are to be members of the kingdom.’
    - i. This verse has nothing to do with giving, and (as one who formerly used it this way) applying it as such misuses Scripture.
    - ii. Why not use the widow who gave every cent she had (Mark 12:41-44)?
  - b. The scribes and Pharisees were self-righteous – Luke 18:9-14
    - i. Luke 10:29
    - ii. Luke 16:14-15
  - c. The scribes’ and Pharisees’ righteousness was shallow & external:
    - i. Matthew 6:1-8
    - ii. John 8:1-12
    - iii. Matthew 23:23-28

Conclusion:

1. Our righteousness must be genuine – Ephesians 4:24
2. We must stand in the true grace of God – 1 Peter 5:12
3. Acts 10:35 – I must fear God and work righteousness