

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 4

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. --Matthew 5:17-20

Day 1—Verse 17

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. --Matthew 5:17

1. What is Jesus referring to as “the Law and the Prophets”?
2. Define the word abolish (kataluō).
3. Why might the Jews have thought that Jesus was abolishing the law?

4. How did Jesus fulfill the law?
5. Is it enough to follow the law of God outwardly? Why or why not?
6. Is the Old Testament necessary for us today?
 - a. Can we fully understand the New Testament without the Old?
 - b. Can we fully understand the Old Testament without the New?

Heart Check:

- Have you been unbalanced in your view of the Old Testament? What steps can you take to grow in your understanding of it?

Day 2—Verse 18

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. --Matthew 5:18

1. Define the word truly (amēn). Is the full meaning what you thought it was? Does a broader understanding of this word change what you understand Jesus to be saying?

2. Why does Jesus use “smallest letter or stroke” to emphasis His point?

3. Is the Bible infallible? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer.

4. We often hear that man has altered the Bible; what confidence does this passage give us that we have the very words today that Jesus was speaking of in this verse?

5. What is the danger of altering or adding to the words of God?

6. What confidence does Jesus give us in the OT from this text?

7. From both the Old and New Testament, what prophecies are left to be accomplished?

Heart Check:

- Do you ever doubt that Scripture is true? What must you do to overcome this sin?

- Do you ever doubt that God's promises are true towards you? How can this verse strengthen your view of God's truth, especially in dark times?

Day 3—Verse 19 -Part 1

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. --Matthew 5:19

1. There were three parts to the Jewish law: ceremonial, judicial, and moral. Are believers now required to obey all of them? Any of them? Why or why not?
2. Can you be a true follower of Christ and ignore His word?
3. What is antinomianism? How does this verse contradict that philosophy?
4. How serious is sin? Are there acceptable sins? Acceptable reasons to sin?
5. What does God say is the greatest commandment and why?

6. What does it mean that those who annul the commandments of God and those who teach others to do so too will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven?

7. We are all teachers! What are some areas in which you are a teacher?

Day 4—Verse 19 -Part 2

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. --Matthew 5:19

1. How is the warning given here echoed in James 3:1?

2. Why are teachers held to greater accountability than those they are teaching?

3. Does the greater accountability of the teacher mean that the student is not accountable for their actions? Why or why not?
4. Read Rom. 6:1-2. What does that passage tell us about obedience to Christ?
5. Define annuls (luō). How might we annul a command of Christ?
6. How might someone teach others to annul the commandments of God?
7. What is the warning and encouragement in this verse?

Heart check:

- How seriously do you take your sin? Are you quick to repent? Quick to deal with it? If not, why not?
- Who are you a teacher to? Are you careful to make sure that you are teaching the whole counsel of God? That you are not leading others astray by your words or actions?

Day 5 – Verse 20

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. --Matthew 5:20

1. How can one’s righteousness surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees?
 - a. Why would this have been an utterly shocking statement to Jesus’ hearers?
 - b. What was the condition of the Scribes and Pharisees?
 - c. Read Romans 10:1-3. Why did their righteousness not please God?
2. What might the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees look like in the church today?

3. Why are we so tempted to keep man-made standards?
4. Can we keep the law enough to earn our way into heaven? Use Scripture to support your answer.
5. How do we enter the kingdom of heaven (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)?
6. How do verses 17-20 connect to verses 3-16?

Heart Check:

- Why do you do the things that you do; serve where you serve? For the praise of men or of God? To lovingly obey God or to appear righteous before others?
- Do you tend towards either ditch (antinomianism or legalism) in your sanctification? How are you transformed?

Dig Deeper:

1. Pastor James has preached through the entire book of Galatians. In this book he deals with salvation, legalism, antinomianism, our relationship to the Law, and Spirit-filled sanctification, all topics we've covered in this lesson. For an in-depth exposition of these topics go to: GraceLife.ca, sermons, filter: scripture, Galatians, to listen to the series or for individual sermons to help you on any of these topics.