

April 19, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Sermon On The Mount
Ep. 3: I Fought The Law
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

MATTHEW 5:17-20

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to **abolish the Law** or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

JESUS THE REVOLUTIONARY

Mosaic and Messianic Implications: Jesus identifies with his Mosaic predecessor but also speaks of a new Messianic age.

Vs. 17 **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

Why the law?

1. **Ethics:** Science does not answer questions of morality.
2. **Protection:** Just laws are meant for the protection of its citizens.
3. **Revelation:** To make clear what unrighteousness is.

Jesus is leading a rebellion that fulfills the law rather than breaks it.

A Surpassing Righteousness: Vs. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

ROMANS 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The **Law of the Spirit** is not based upon a “fleshly” ability to uphold it, but rather upon the Spirit’s ability to empower you to live out a law which standards have already been met.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

1. Do you believe that Jesus was a revolutionary? If so, do you live as if you are part of a rebellion? How would this mindset change your way of living?
2. Pastor Adam stated that "science does not define ethics". If you don't believe in God, how then should you define ethics?
3. Jesus said that in order to be part of his Kingdom that you had to be more righteous than the most righteous people of His day. How would that have struck you if you heard it back then?
4. Jesus fulfilled the law. What does this mean for you?
5. If you now live according to the Spirit rather than the flesh, what possibilities does that open?