

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES 9
“Understanding Jesus Coming As The Second Adam”
Matthew 5:17-19

Matthew 5:17-19 (KJV)

^{5:17} **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

¹⁸ **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

¹⁹ **Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:17-19 (TLB)

^{5:17} **“Don’t misunderstand why I have come—it isn’t to cancel the laws of Moses and the warnings of the prophets. No, I came to fulfill them and to make them all come true.**

¹⁸ **With all the earnestness I have I say: Every law in the Book will continue until its purpose is achieved.**

¹⁹ **And so if anyone breaks the least commandment and teaches others to, he shall be the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But those who teach God’s laws *and obey them* shall be great in the Kingdom of Heaven.**

If someone asked you, “Why did Jesus Christ come to earth?” What would you say? How would you respond? The truth is Jesus Christ coming was absolutely necessary, to “fulfill all the law of Holy God”. When God created Adam in the Garden of Eden, and he sinned, Adam revealed a horrible truth about himself in turning away from God. He revealed that he could not fulfill all the laws of God. Adam revealed that man could turn away from God, and bring sin into the world. The sobering truth of turning away from God’s laws is the reality of sin. The result of sin is death, which mean “separation from God”. As long as there is sin there is separation from God, and thus there is no way to get to God, and no way to get to heaven. Is there anyone that can fulfill and keep the whole law sinlessly? Is there One that can keep for an entire lifetime all the laws and not break a one. Yes, and His name was Jesus. Jesus proved that He could fulfill all the laws of God, and by fulfilling all the laws of God. In fulfilling all the laws then and then is One given the right to bridge the gap between God and man...and only one man did it. Jesus Christ. Some think that Jesus was not man. If he was not He couldn’t identify completely with man. Some think that Jesus was only man. If that was the case, Jesus was simply a good man dying for a “cause”. But such is not the case. Jesus was the God/Man. Fully God and fully man. Two natures running concurrent in one person. Jesus is God’s Son.

1. **JESUS COMING IN THE FLESH WAS TO FULFILL THE LAW.** One truth must be remembered at the very outset, God is Holy God, and man has broken relationship with God, therefore man is dead in trespasses and sin. Whereby one man sin entered into the world, God arranged for one man, Jesus to redeem the world. But prior to doing so, Jesus had to reveal Himself by fulfilling all the laws that God had ordained.

First, God gave laws for man to keep. At Mount Sinai, God gave His people the Ten Commandments, but their humanity revealed a weakness to keep them. The law described how Holy God anticipated man to live, but the law could not give man the power to live that way. Just like a speed limit sign gives the speed limit, but does not enable a person with the power to do so. Since mankind was unable to keep the laws, God gave to the world Jesus Christ, His Son, born of a virgin, in flesh, to keep the laws that mankind could not keep. To be the perfect sacrifice before God, Jesus had to be sinless, and committing one sin would prove “sinful”. But in keeping law after law after law all His life, Jesus proved that He could follow the God given commandments, and at the same time prove a worthy sacrifice for man’s sins. Jesus is the Perfect Picture of God’s will, the Perfect Man, and the Pattern for all men. Jesus didn’t come to break any laws or destroy them, but to fulfill them.

1 Peter 2:21-23 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Since Adam (one man) brought sin, and the reality of sin on all mankind, it was through Jesus Christ (one man) that righteousness was brought. Because He fulfilled all the laws of God.

Second, before Christ, there was only laws, rules giving man the idea of how he should behave. But no person could behave, because man was sinful. In Christ, He fulfilled and kept all the laws. But what is more. He gives His Spirit to all who call on Him, and enables us, by His Spirit to walk godly. In truth we (the saved) are in Christ. And when God looks at us, He sees us in “the righteousness of His Son. In Jesus is God’s perfect example of One that could keep the Ten Commandments. In Jesus was One that never had an impure motive, wrong attitude or sinful tendency. This was

all necessary for Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for all the sins of mankind. Christ in fulfilling all the law proved Himself to be the perfect sacrifice for man, and able to embrace all of mankind and all his sins, and to die for the sins of the world. Had Jesus had only “one” bad moment, “one” bad thought, “one” sinful tendency, “one” wrong motive, Holy God could not have allowed Him to die. But the joy and the wonder of Jesus is that He proves that God’s holy standard can be fulfilled.

Third, before Christ, the law demanded punishment for disobedience. If a man broke the law “he” was punished. But Christ in fulfilling all the law took all God’s punishment for us. Jesus paid for your sin for all time so you don’t have to pay for your sin. If Jesus was punished for your sins, you can’t be punished for your sins...for that is “double jeopardy”. Not even a court will do so. *Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

2. JESUS DECLARES THAT A PERSON MUST DO AND TEACH GOD’S LAWS IN ORDER TO “BE GREAT”. If you were to ask a person how to achieve “greatness”, not doubt the answers would vary based on the number of people that were asked. But Jesus reveals a sobering and wonderful truth in Matthew 5:19, and that truth is this...we can know how to be “great” in the sight of God. Achieving greatness before the God of heaven requires only two realities. First...teach God’s laws. Second...obey God’s laws. While no person is perfectly obedient all the time. The truth according to Jesus, who is God, who formed us and gave us life is that there is within us the potential of being great in the sight of God, but teaching and obedience are essential.

First, consider the caution. Jesus gives an indictment to “anyone” who breaks the commandments. For the commandments are not made by preachers, religious leaders but by Holy God. The laws of Scripture are orchestrated by the prophets, but Holy God. Any person choosing to “break” or dissolve, or loosen or melt away the commandments of God will suffer the indictment of God. An example: A person who confesses sin, repeatedly and asks for forgiveness of the same sin, only to choose to repeat over a thousand times, has found himself to take lightly the commands of God. People who continually confess sins, and go back to them, often find themselves falling in some moral pit. Why? Because they “loosened” the commands of God in their heart. When we loosen the commands of God in our heart, we will loosen them to others. Sin is not sin any longer it is shortcoming. Jesus gives a strong word of caution.

Second, consider the consequences. Any person who breaks the “least” commandment and teaches others to, shall be called LEAST in the kingdom of heaven, which is an eternal kingdom. Yes, they were in the kingdom. Yes, they were saved. But evidently “their position” in the kingdom will be in light of their rejection of God’s commandments. God’s commandments originate from within His holiness. God’s holy commandments originate from a heart of COMPLETE UNSELFISH, AND SELF GIVING LOVE. No commandment can ever be designed to hurt us, because the very nature of God cannot be one to hurt us. Any person who chooses to violate the commandments of God, and encourage others to do so, it going against the Creator of all that was, is, and ever is to come! The reality is, there are teachers even now that are disregarding, and teaching against God’s Word. The result, will find themselves if in heaven being called LEAST in the kingdom of God. How would you like to be in heaven and be called “LEAST” once you arrived. This is seemingly the picture that Jesus paints for all that are listening. Yes, all Christians will be there, but there are some that are saved, that are debating the validity of Scripture, the veracity of Scripture. Some Christian professors are leading their students astray with unsound teaching...and God will deal with them. It is a serious issue what you believe, and it is a serious issue to believe the truth and practice the commandments of Holy God. In doing so, Jesus, God the Son, declares “you will be called great in heaven”. Imagine for a moment and walking the street of gold, and someone looking at you and calling you “great”. That is the promise to all who obey and teach by both life and word.

Third, consider the compliment for obedience. Obedience to the commands of God is “loving God” in actions. Declaring a love for God and not “obeying” His Word is completely inconsistent. The obedient person WILL: 1) Be called GREAT. 2) The love of the Father is revealed in a special way to the obedient person. 3) Receive “high” honor once arriving in heaven. This is not figurative language but language that Jesus uses in a real, deliberate and intentional way. While many live disregarding the commands of God...Jesus makes it clear that when a person chooses to honor and obey the commands of Holy God, that person will be esteemed, and blessed both now and in heaven. The phrase “shall be called” indicates that in heaven announcements will be made about our lives, and those announcements will have to do with the degree of honor or dishonor that we gave to the commands of God.

Fourth, consider the challenge. There is a sobering challenge in this verse, and that verse is this...will Jesus call us least, or will He be able to call us great. The single greatest denominator is this...did we honor the commands that originate from the holy nature of God, and did we teach them to others, or did we dishonor the commands of God, by actions, attitudes, deeds, and teach others that the commands of God are of little significance. The sobering truth is this...Jesus declares only two types of classifications inside the kingdom of God “great” or “least”. What will be said about you when Jesus evaluates your life against the commands of God?