

## Sermon on the mount - Matt 5:17 – 20

v17

'Do not think' . . . clearly many thought he would abolish the law, after all he was contradicting the teachers of the day and with real authority (Matt 7:28)

Jesus under law... Gal 4:4

There's a right time & way to do things Mat 3:15

... so Jesus is not in the removal business, but rather construction.

He's taking the good moral framework that had been broken and abused, and throwing God's heart of love and grace into it.... radically changing the way it had been perceived, and fulfilling it.

V18

The word for fulfill,

Pléroó - to complete, accomplish . . . finish the job. Not take away from it.

Heaven & earth disappear NIV... 'pass away' NRSV - parerchomai - to pass by, to arrive

From [para](#) and [erchomai](#); to come near or aside,

went (18 times) come (over 600 times)

i.e. To approach (arrive), go by (or away), (figuratively) perish or neglect, (causative) avert -- come (forth)

Letter and stroke refer to the smallest Hebrew letter and inflection used

Also v 18 disappear from the law

... better to read, pass from or come from the law....

until 'everything has come into being'

Jesus is saying... I'll finish what I started... He's make it clear that he is about reclaiming the lost, restoring that which was broken, inspiring hope in those who were down trodden, generously, extravagantly declaring love to those who do not feel worthy... and He's not going to stop until the job is done.

V19

breaks - loose ... relax... the commandment. Back to the law and in doing so, we are back to the beatitude principles here....

There is a correct way, and if there are those who consciously water down and teach that doing the right thing doesn't matter.. there appears to be consequences...

but we need to be careful not to just make another law here!

However, there appears to be blessing... just like in the beatitudes, for those who understand what Jesus is getting at and telling others of the same. So, with the beatitude heart, we can

say.... Jesus fulfilment of the Law is through Grace.... those who are not perfect, who haven't got it all together, who know their weakness and genuine need for restoration... they are the ones who can practice this love, because they know what it means. So contrary to logical thought, the wisdom.... the salt liberally sprinkled all over this.... is that those who teach by an unfulfilled law, those who rely on stature, merit and self-righteousness (and teach that to others) will find themselves lacking in the end. But those who see Jesus in the light of the radical new light of love and grace... the one that says welcome first and lets the holy Spirit do the conviction of hearts rather than thinking salvation relies on us to make it happen! It's those who will benefit most in the kingdom... now!

Remember, the kingdom of heaven is not just a 'not yet', but a real present reality.

The people Jesus is speaking to... he's saying, those who can see the way I mean this... and tell others about the true kingdom values... people are going to love you! It's going to be such a relief... that guy is great!

V20

For I tell you....

If you try to attain righteousness by means of the Law, like the Pharisees and teachers of it... you will fail.

If you have righteousness through faith, that is a Gift of God.... that's different. That is the only way, recognising that we cannot DO anything to merit ' Salvation' ... that healing & restoration.

In this light Romans 3 :21 – 24 makes a load more sense.