

Episode #720 Matthew 5 Part 3: Every Detail of the Law

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord was teaching His disciples on a mountain, what is commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount.” His teaching was for His disciples, every one an Israelite, and regarded the proper conduct of a disciple in light of God’s kingdom. “Blessed” means “how happy!” Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn now, the humble or submissive, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, those who are pure in heart, those who are peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Today, He is going to go on to speak of His disciples being salt and light.

III. The Disciples Are Salt and Light.

A. Matthew 5:13. This is spoken to believing disciples. In some mysterious way these acted as the preservers of the earth. It is good for this earth when there are men who love the truth; who believe it is in the Word of God; who get into the Word to seek out the truth; and who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. If salt became wet it could lose its saltiness (Bullinger stored on the bare earth, or exposed to the air or sun), at which point it was good for nothing. Put on the land it would damage the land. To keep it off the fields, they would put it out in the roadway to be trampled underfoot. This is how it is when those who profess to be lovers of the truth compromise and temporize.

B. Verse 14. The world is *kosmos*, the order, system, or arrangement. A hill provides a city a defensible position, but no concealment. What darkness there would be if no one loved the truth or cared about the Word of God!

C. Verse 15. This is completely true today. This is how we too ought to live! The apostles were the examples, giving their all for Christ. It is up to us to do the same.

D. Verse 16. If you have light; don’t hold it back! Allowing your light to shine is good works. Speaking God’s truth and living the truth is included.

IV. The Law and Righteousness.

A. Verse 17. Where did the Lord come from? From God! The Law and the Prophets together stand for the Old Testament. Destroy = to unbind. Fulfill = *pleroo*, fill full. This is an important truth, and one many deny!

B. Verse 18. Assuredly = amen. A jot = *iota*, referring to *yod*, the smallest Hebrew letter. A tittle = *keriaia*, used by grammarians for accents and diacritical points. The Lord used it of a mark that distinguished one letter from another in Hebrew. “By no means” is the two Greek words for “no” put together *ou me*; the strongest possible “no.” Fulfilled = *ginomai*, come to be.

C. Verse 19. “Least” is smallest in size or importance. “Called” means positioned in the smallest or least important position. “Great,” notice, but not the greatest! There can be many least, but only one greatest. The Lord is telling these Israelites that they must keep the law and keep it in its entirety! Some would use this to put us under the law...but only such law as they select, like the Ten Commandments, or the keeping of some day. But the Lord took it down to the least of the commandments.

D. Verse 20. Their righteousness was in their traditions, which often went contrary to God’s law. The scribes and Pharisees were considered the “good people” of Israel.

Yet the Lord knew their righteousness was empty. The same is true of many of the religious righteous people today, including those respected as religious leaders. “In no case” is the strongest Greek “no” again, *ou me*. So they weren’t entering!

V. Conclusion: The Lord assured them that He did not come to unbind the law, but to fulfill it. Indeed, the smallest detail of God’s Word will never pass away until it is fulfilled. Do we hold to God’s Word in its every detail, or do we give up the details that we don’t care for? Many do that. Let us be dedicated to the truth of the Bible, rightly divided!