



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS

Not to Destroy, but to Fulfill

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:5

“Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.”

For My Family:

Today we are going to talk about Jesus and the Law, but before we do, we have to talk about what the Law is! In Jesus' day, the New Testament hadn't been written yet. They only had the Old Testament, which they often called the Law, or the Law and the Prophets. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments along with many other rules for God's people to obey, but there was a problem: No one could obey them all perfectly! No one had ever been able to keep the whole law! In fact, whenever someone sinned (broke God's rules), an innocent animal had to be sacrificed to cover that sin.

But why did God give the Law if no one could keep it perfectly? Why did all those animals have to die? To prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Paul tells us in Galatians that the law is a tutor to bring us to Christ. God's Law is like a mirror that shows us there is sin in our hearts that separates us from a perfect and holy God. It shows us our need for a Savior, someone who can take the punishment for our sins and make us righteous! But who could ever do this?

“I didn't come to destroy the Law and the Prophets... but to fulfill.” The answer was and is Jesus! He fulfilled the Law by obeying it perfectly, by fulfilling prophecy, and by becoming the only innocent sacrifice that could take our place. “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

This is so important for us to understand as we follow Jesus and read the Bible! We need Him. Not just for salvation, but to help us live for Him. The Scribes and the Pharisees were the most righteous people on the planet outwardly, but their hearts were sinful. Jesus taught that sin comes from within, and without God's help we can't be made righteous (right with God). Maybe the beatitudes sounded impossible to you. Who could ever be merciful, humble, and pure in heart all the time? The answer is Jesus can and He lives in you!

As followers of Jesus, we don't work to keep commandments and traditions like the Pharisees did. We walk in the Spirit, depending on the strength that God gives us each day to live for Him. “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). The Bible tells us that no one is righteous, that our righteousness is like filthy rags. Righteousness couldn't come from the Law, it had to come from Jesus as He fulfilled the Law in His life, death and resurrection. We need Jesus to take away our sin and give us His righteousness. Sin separates us from God, but the righteousness of Jesus allows us to draw near to God. We can do all through Christ who strengthens us, but without Him, we can do nothing.

Questions for Young Children:

Can anyone keep all of God's commands in the Law?

What is it called when someone disobeys God's commands?

What is righteousness?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

How does sin effect your relationship with God?

What is needed to make people right with God?

What does it mean for Christ to live in you? If He does, why do you still sin?