

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson #5

“Kingdom Fullness” Part I

Matthew 5:17-19

Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; NASU

Introduction:

How many of you remember your first car? My first car was a white 1964 Ford. My grandpa gave it to me before I could even drive. I had a lot of fun putting carpet in the floor boards and sitting and listening to the A.M. Radio and starting it up and driving it around the yard.

That thing had bad engine rings. Do you know what a car that has bad rings does? Yes this car smoked the greatest cloud of white smoke you have ever seen in your life. My dad joked that the town of Inola was going to hire me to drive around and kill mosquitoes.

After some thought on that I ended up getting rid of that car before I began to drive because I thought it wouldn't help me to be cool.

When people get rid of cars there are a couple of things that are interesting to think of. Like when the Old white 1964 Ford left for the last time hauled away Willy Cotton in an old tow truck, I was glad to see it gone and never wanted to see it again....I even wanted to forget that it had ever been built. Now I wished I had that car as you might identify with.

But, some people take old cars and put them in museums. Where the important lessons of car building can always be remembered. Each new generation that passes by gains the great advantage of not having to re-invent the wheel so-to-speak.

When you see some really old car, you can't help but come to an understanding that your car today couldn't be what it is with out the groundwork that the old cars laid before it.

Transitional Statement:

Church, the Old Covenant was and is a vital part of who we are. I wonder how many efforts to lead a lost person to Jesus has failed because of our own lack of understanding of God's eternal plan. The Old must not be forgotten, because it is very much a part of who we are today.

I. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets

Matthew 5:17 *“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets;...”*

A. When Jesus says *“Do not think”* this phrase is the aorist tense verb in the Greek, which means it is a one time action... i.e. He is saying....you’ve got to get this straight right now before we move on.

1. So we see a sense of urgency in Jesus’ opening words.
2. An urgency to keep their perceptions and thinking about Him and His purpose straight.
 - a. I can’t see Jesus expecting anything less of us today.
 - b. But, I do stop here to wonder how many people have found themselves far removed from our Lord because of faulty perceptions about who and what He is.
3. The New Testament directs us away from understanding brought on by:
 - a. Speculation of thought. 1 Timothy 1:4
 - b. Philosophy Col 2:8
 - c. Traditions of man Mark 7:8
 - d. Emotions or feeling, rather than truth John 4:24 & John 8:32
 - e. The only thing we are to know for sure is simply what Jesus tells us.

-Not adding to or taking away from 1 Cor 4:6.

B. So here Jesus wants His disciples to know that His purpose for coming was not to abolish the Law or the Prophets

1. Now when the Law and the Prophets are mentioned together like this, they represent the entirety of the Old Covenant system.
2. So Jesus is saying that He didn’t come to destroy or demolish them at all.
 - a. Of course that’s all the Pharisees and teachers of the Law thought
 - 1) They thought He was totally against it.
 - 2) Didn’t understand His connection with it.

C. What if His disciples thought that He had come to abolish the Law and the Prophets?

1. They might have concluded that:

- a. The story of Moses wasn't matter any more.
- b. That the psalms were a useless waste of paper.
- c. They might be inclined to spend their whole life fighting and arguing with the Pharisee's and teachers of the law.....like Martin Luther and his 95 thesis.

-Hence taking their focus off God.

- d. They might have been inclined to think He was setting up a earthly kingdom and gotten concerned about position.

-Acts 1:6 & Matt 18:1

- e. Or that all the truth about God and who He is and His expectations were now somehow going to be different.

-But God hasn't changed Heb 1:12

Jesus continues in verse 17 by saying: "...I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."

A. Jesus' purpose includes fulfillment of the Law and Prophets

- 1. "*Fulfill*" here is the idea of taking a jar with some amount of water in it and filling it the rest of the way up.
 - a. Basically carrying the idea of completeness.
- 2. The Law of Moses was set in place as a schoolmaster or a tutor to pave the way for the coming of Christ. Gal 3:24
 - a. It's fundamental truths are timeless in nature.
 - b. The law or the prophets did not contradict Christ

...they pointed to Him

...so when Jesus came He became as much a part of the Old Covenant as the New Covenant.

- 3. The Hebrew writer in 10:1 helps us understand how exceedingly valuable the Old Testament is to us when it says that.... The Old Covenant was a shadow of the reality that was to exist under Christ.

-There is a sense in which even though the Old Covenant was but a shadow, the truths of the it are eternally true and will stand for forever.

- 4. The Old covenant stands as part of the New testament bedrock or foundation Eph 2:20

5. Church it is the Old Testament that most clearly communicates who God is and how He deals with his people and what He expects of them.

-Can or should this ever be laid aside...I think not !

-It is a part of the “*all scripture*” statement of Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16

-With Profitability

- B. You know one of the greatest strengths of evangelism is to show someone how Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s overall plan.

-Without the Old Covenant the Eunuch would not have been taught about Christ. ...Acts 8

II. The Law shall stand until all is accomplished.

Matthew 5:18 *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”*

- A. Here Jesus is saying that the Law was and is ordained by God

1. Jesus and His disciples are under that Law
2. And it stands and cannot and shall not be changed

....until !

- B. Jesus says “*until all is accomplished*”

1. This is a middle voice verb...so Jesus is talking about Himself.
2. And He wants His disciples to understand that change is on the horizon but it won’t be until He has accomplished His purpose and then it will be in connection with the purposes served by the Old Covenant.

...It will not be in direct opposition to them.

...The Old and New Covenants will actually dovetail together in perfect harmony.

- C. Let’s read some New Testament passages about the changing of the Covenants.

1. Colossians 2:13-14

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the un-circumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

2. Hebrews 7:18-19

18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

3. Hebrews 8:13

13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

4. Ephesians 2:14-16

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity."

Abolishing ...Rendered idle....not destroyed

5. Luke 16:16

16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it."

D. How I understand this is that there are eternal truths set forth in the Old Covenant that will always be true, throughout all time.

1. That through the Old Covenant we learn things about God that could not otherwise be known,
2. That through the Old Covenant we gain so much knowledge on what God expects from His people
 - a. That we dare not lose sight of its value.

*But specifically what was set aside was its systematic approach to salvation through faith in commandment keeping and regulations surrounding imperfect sacrifices.

E. Church, we need to make no mistake about itall was accomplished when that perfect sacrifice was made available.

1. When Jesus shed His blood on that cross and provided atonement for our sins.
2. When the veil of the temple was removed and access to God allowed through the blood of Christ....
 - a. All was accomplished
 - b. And the full intention of God was set forth in the New Covenant.

III. Kingdom perspective of the Law.

Matthew 5:19

19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

- A. Here the idea seems to be that a person who chooses to completely disregard the Old covenant thinking that it has been completely removed and has no current value, they might still enter the Kingdom and find God through Jesus but they will by no means gain the fullness that is meant for kingdom servants who understand the entirety of God's eternal plan.

Conclusion:

Have we disregarded the Old Covenant or preserved truths of it for future generations?

Jesus is the great completer. He filled the Law of Moses up and overflowed it.

Just think if Jesus can complete the Law of Moses.....He wants to complete us also.

Maybe there is something incomplete in your life

Maybe you lack fullness of God in some way.