

**“THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW”
NEW BEGINNING COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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Sermon one: Jesus revealed four characteristics related to GOD.

Sermon two: Jesus revealed four characteristics related to MAN.

Sermon three: Jesus exposed the Christian’s INFLUENCE on the world.

Sermon four: Jesus revealed his relationship to the O.T. LAW.

Sermon five: Jesus revealed the CHRISTIANS relationship to the O.T. Law.

Text: Matthew 5:19–20 *So (therefore) if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.* ²⁰ *“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”*

Intro: We must ask the question, “What is the ‘therefore’ there FOR?”

Therefore: What is ABOUT to be said is based on what has JUST been said.

- Jesus did not come to start a NEW religion.
- Jesus did not come to ABOLISH the O.T. Law.
- Jesus did come to FULFILL the O.T. Law.
- Jesus said the moral law was VALID until the end of history.

Summary: If Jesus was committed to the Law, his followers MUST follow his example.

I. JESUS REVEALS THE KEY TO GREATNESS IN HIS KINGDOM.

Matthew 5:19 *So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

A. The least in God’s Kingdom, cherry PICK the commands of God.

Matthew 23:23–24 *“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”* ²⁴ *Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!*

B. The great in God’s Kingdom, seek to fully obey ALL the Laws of God.

1. Have a daily PRAYER time. **Mark 1:35** *Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.*
2. Have a daily INTAKE of God’s Word. **Psalm 119:11** *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

3. Put ON the Spiritual Armor. **Ephesians 6:13** *Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil.*

4. Be FILLED with God’s Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18** *Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,*

5. Crucify the FLESH. **Colossians 3:5** *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.*

6. LOVE God and your fellowman. **Matthew 22:37–39** *Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ . . . ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

7. Be committed to the CHURCH. **Acts 2:47** *And each day the Lord added to their fellowship (the church) those who were being saved.*

8. BIBLICAL stewardship! **Malachi 3:10** *Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple.*

9. Focus on the eternal, NOT the temporal. **Colossians 3:2** *Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.*

10. Enjoy the JOURNEY. **Ecclesiastes 3:12** *So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can.*

II. JESUS EXPOSED THE ERROR OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

Matthew 5:20 *“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”*

- A. This statement had to be a SHOCK to the first hearers.
- B. The religious leaders practiced an external religion INSTEAD of an internal religion.
- C. The religious leaders looked GOOD on the outside; but were ROTTEN to the core on the inside. **Matthew 23:27** *What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.*
- D. Nicodemus was a Pharisee who knew something was WRONG on the inside. **John 3:2** *After dark one evening, Nicodemus came to speak with Jesus.*
- E. The religious leaders had DISTORTED the Law; Jesus came to REMOVE the distortions.
- F. Three things are necessary for obedience to the Law.

1. One must be BORN again. **John 3:3** *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”*
2. One must have God’s law written on the HEARTS. **Jeremiah 31:33** *“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”*
3. One must be filled with the HOLY Spirit. **Ezekiel 36:27** *God said, “And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”*

F.T.: When we live our lives in obedience to the Law, it is PLEASING to God and GOOD for us.