

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH GOD'S WORD
KINGDOM LIVING SERIES SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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July 14, 2019

TEXT: Matt. 5:17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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 ²keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. “

Matt. 5:20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

INTRO: God's Word has transformed lives, communities, and this world. Therefore, being committed to know God's word and obey God's word is a nonnegotiable for a follower of Jesus. It must be central to your life. You cannot love Jesus and not love his Word. That is why Jesus says in **John 14:21** “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

Specifically, in our passage, Jesus talks about the Law and Prophets. When we talk about the law, we are talking about the Torah or the first five books of the Old Testament Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Prophets would be the historical books of 1&2 Sam 1&2 Kings and the Major Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel and the Minor prophets of Hosea to Malachi. There is the third part of the Hebrew Bible, called The Writings that would include Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, etc. However, when Jesus is talking about the Law and Prophets, he is talking about the Old Testament, which is God's Word. Therefore, in this message I am going to use God's law and God's word interchangeably.

We have a hard time with the word law. We know that we are saved by grace and not by obedience to the law. (Eph 2:8) We feel that it is not relevant to us because we are in the New Covenant. But the Old Testament was the Bible for Jesus and the early church. And the Old

Testament is still God's truth.

The Sermon on the Mount is the inauguration of a new covenant. His words would be even more difficult than the requirements of the Ten Commandments.

There are 691 laws in the Old Testament, but God sums up all the laws by giving us the Ten Commandments. Jesus and the writers of the New Testament sums up the Ten Commandments into two: Love the Lord your God and to love one another (Mat22:37 & 39). **Rom. 13:10** "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of *the law.*" Jesus will teach us to love our enemies. There is no way that you can obey this apart from the grace of God.

We are going to see that God does not compromise on His word and His standards but that He gives us the grace to obey His word. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom.

PURPOSE STATEMENT: THREE TRANSFORMATIVE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S WORD

- I. **WE MUST HAVE A HIGH VALUE FOR GOD'S WORD FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS ETERNAL**
 - A. **Matt. 5:17** "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."
 1. How did Jesus fulfill the word? First Jesus obeyed the law perfectly throughout his lifetime. Second, He is the fulfillment of all that was prophesied about concerning the Messiah. Lastly, He is the perfect expression of how to obey the law and expression of the heart of the Father. He is perfect theology.
 2. For example, he did heal on the Sabbath, so what we are talking about is the right interpretation of the law and Jesus being God, interpreted perfectly. You want to know God, know Jesus.
 3. He also did not condemn the woman caught in adultery. The Old Testament said she had her partner had to be stoned, but Jesus forgives and does not advocated capital punishment.
 - B. **Matt 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."
 1. But His law will always be relevant until not until the death and resurrection of Jesus but even after the second coming when he creates a new heaven and new earth.
 2. Which one of the Ten Commandments do you want to throw out?

Do not murder, do not commit adultery, and do not obey the command to honor your father and mother?

C. WHY IS GOD'S WORD ETERNAL?

1. **Matt 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."
2. The key word is until all is accomplished.
3. **2Tim. 3:16** "Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way." *The Message*
4. God breathed or inspired. The Word of God is another example of heaven on earth. God breathed into humans with different personalities and background.
5. The Word teaches us to live God's way. God's word has transformed lives, culture and has disciplined nations.
6. **Mt 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."
7. **The Book That Made Your World By Vishal Mangalwadi**

II. GOD'S BLESSING AND SUCCESS COMES WITH THOSE WHO TEACH AND OBEY GOD'S WORD

- A. **Mt 5:19** "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 ²*keeps* and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
 1. There is a resurgence of what people call, Hyper Grace teaching going on in the body of Christ. This is nothing new. Theologically speaking it is called Antinomianism. People have taught that once Jesus died and rose again, the Old Testament is irrelevant and only the New Covenant is relevant for us today.
 2. What we teach is that salvation is not through obeying the law but by grace through faith.
- B. **BEING GREAT IN GOD'S KINGDOM**
 1. Twice Jesus teaches about being great in His Kingdom, one being a servant of others.
 2. **Matt. 20:26** "But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among

- you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
3. Second teaching the whole counsel of God’s word.
 4. Obeying God’s word. Matt 7
 5. **Matt. 7:24** “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and ¹acts on them, ²may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ “And the rain fell, and the ¹floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not ¹act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ “The rain fell, and the ¹floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall.”
 6. In the light of the recent earthquake that this is relevant, whether we are going through a physical or spiritual shaking, God says that when you obey God’s word, you are going to be just fine.
 7. **Psa. 1:1-3** “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the ¹path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law, he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”
 8. **Josh 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may ¹be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”
 9. Mary and I had the privilege of meeting with Dr. Oral Roberts one month before he passed away (Nov 2009. He died Dec 15, 2009). He shared with a group of 20 leaders who were invited to a private meeting with him in his home in Orange County. Someone asked him, “What is the key to the success of your ministry?” He said, “*Simply receive the revelation of God’s word, second, to believe the word of the Lord, and finally, obey the word of the Lord.*”

III. GOD WILL GIVE US HIS SUPERNATURAL GRACE TO HELP US TO OBEY GOD’S LAW

- A. **Matt. 5:20** “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the

- kingdom of heaven.”
1. The only way that our righteousness can exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees is by the grace of God.
 2. **Luke 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.”
 3. The Law and Prophets have not changed but now the Good News of King Jesus and His reign will give you the grace and power to obey God’s word.
 4. **Ezekiel 36:26** “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”
 5. **Jeremiah 31:33** “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
 6. **Titus 2:11** “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.”
 7. The older I get in the Lord, the more I find that obeying the scriptures become much easier and more doable.

CONCLUSION: Receive the grace of God by faith in Jesus.