

# **OUR LORD AND THE LAW**

## **Matthew 5:17-20**

**Jesus communicated to His listeners His convictions about God's Word**

### **I. FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW IS IMPORTANT** (17-18)

#### **A. CHRIST'S PASSION (17)**

1. Not destroying the Law
2. Fulfilling the Law
  - a. By performing its perfections - Heb. 4:15 and II Cor. 5:21
  - b. By fulfilling its predictions - Luke 24:27 & 44 with John 13:18
  - c. By making its required payments - Colossians 2:13-14

#### **B. CHRIST'S PROMISE (18)**

1. The Declaration: The Law must be fulfilled (See Heb. 10:11-18)
2. The Details: Every minute aspect of the Law must come true
3. The Deadline: Until heaven and earth pass away

### **II. OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW IS ESSENTIAL** (19-20)

#### **A. CONSIDER ONE'S ACTIONS (19)**

1. The Least Cancels Commands
  - a. Annulling the least command - See Deut. 22:6-7
  - b. Teaching others to dismiss or set aside commands - See Matt. 15:3-9 and 23:16-22
2. The Greatest Keeps Commands
  - a. He does the commandments ... He applies them to life ... He obeys!
  - b. He teaches others the commands of God

#### **B. CONSIDER THE STANDARD (20)**

1. The Statement: Righteousness better than the scribes and Pharisees
  - a. The problem with scribe and Pharisee "righteousness"
    - 1) It was partial - **Matt. 23:23**
    - 2) It was external - Matt. 23:25
    - 3) It was traditional - Mark 7:7-8
    - 4) It was self-centered - Rom. 10:3
  - b. The essence of their "righteousness" was based upon their complex "traditions"  
- Recorded in the Mishnah and Talmud

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2. The Surprise: Christ's teachings
  - a. Christ's conditions: What follows in vs. 21-48
  - b. Christ's contrast: "You have heard ... But I say"
  - c. Christ's commentary - See Luke 18:11-14

### **CONCLUSION:**

**What does Jesus say about God's Word?**

*- Jesus says that the Law is important, and obedience is essential*

**Read Psalm 19:7-11**

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