

## Matthew 5:17-32 - Kingdom Principles – Part 1

Scriptures:

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the

G2647 – to tear  
down, cancel,  
annul.

Notes:  
Principle #1 – Obey God’s  
commands.

‘Law’ = first five books of the Bible –  
the Pentateuch.

‘Prophets’ – the writings from Isaiah  
to Malachi.

This teaches us some important  
things about the Word of God. First,  
Jesus’ incarnation did not nullify the  
Old Testament. It is just as relevant  
today as it was when it was written.  
What has changed is how we  
interpret Scripture. Jesus is the  
fulfillment of the self-disclosure or  
revelation of God.

Jesus did not come to destroy or do  
away with the Old Testament.  
Through Christ we can now better  
understand the Old Testament  
Scriptures – they point to Christ.

“The Bible is God’s Word written and  
Jesus Christ is God’s Word  
personified.” (Augsburger, 1982)  
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Law or the Prophets. I did not come to

G3551 -

G4396 -

destroy but to fulfill.

G4137 – fill up,  
satisfy – “to  
satisfy ⇔ fill up v.  
— to satisfy,  
conceived of as if  
filling a container  
completely.”

Scriptures:

18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and

Notes:

earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by

G3928 – “to pass  
away v. — to pass  
out of use or go  
out of existence.”

no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

G3928 – same as  
above

G1096 - happens

Scriptures:

19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least

G3089 –  
transgress.

Notes:

'breaks' = knowingly transgresses.  
This is someone who knows that  
God's law forbids something and  
they either disregard God's will or  
reject God's authority in that matter.

of these commandments, and teaches men

G1321 -

so, shall be called least in the kingdom of

G1646 – least  
important

heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*,

he shall be called great in the kingdom of

G3173 – “megas”  
– great  
importance

heaven.

Scriptures:  
Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

20 For I say to you, that unless your

<sup>OK</sup> righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of

G1343 – “righteousness n. — adherence to what is required according to a standard; for example, a moral standard, though not always.”

G4052 -

the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no

means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>Ⓣ</sup>

G1525 -

Notes:

The Scribes and the Pharisees were considered to be the most righteous people around. To Jesus' hearers, He was setting an impossible standard before them.

To the religious Jews the Law consisted of 613 specific commandments and countless rules, traditions, and examples. It became a burden that no one could bear.

Jesus is not calling people to a rigid legalism, but freedom to walk in the Spirit. That doesn't negate the commandments, but it puts the day-to-day interpretation of the Scriptures into the authority of the Holy Spirit in everyone's life. The righteousness we are seeking is not the righteousness of the Law, but righteousness with God through faith in Christ and in willing submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 10:4).

The Law teaches us of our sinfulness and need for a Savior. There is no righteousness in the Law. If there was, it could save us. Only Jesus can save us. It is His righteousness that is imputed to us through faith in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

Scriptures:  
Exodus 20:13 - You shall not murder.

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of

Notes:  
This begins a section of ethical teachings by Christ. He just said, the Law will not end until it is fulfilled. Now He deepens our understanding of the Law.

‘it was said’ – May be dealing with the wrong interpretation of the religious leaders.

‘You shall not murder.’ = Sixth Commandment.

old, *You shall not murder*, and whoever

*murders* will be in danger of the judgment.’

G1777 -

G2920 – verdict, condemnation,

22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with

G3710 – very  
angry, furious,

Notes:

'but I say to you' – is an expression of Christ's authority as the Messiah.

Not only is it wrong to kill people, but Jesus says that anything that leads to killing is also wrong. Wrong attitudes and thoughts and feelings that lead to violence are to be avoided.

his brother without a cause shall be in danger

G1500 – for no  
reason,

We are called to have a high regard for human life. We should also have a high regard for the dignity of others. We were all created by God to carry His image out into the world. To despise another human is to despise someone God created.

of the judgment. And whoever says to his

It is usually our differences that create conflict within groups. As believers, we ought to respond to differences with love, respect, and grace.

Anything that leads to killing is sin. We are to avoid anger because it can more easily lead to killing. Anger wounds people, both who are on the giving and receiving side of the equation.

brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the

G4469 – "empty head n.  
— (Aramaic) a mildly  
insulting word used to  
tease; meaning  
"empty," used to  
express a low opinion of  
someone's intelligence."

council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be

G4892 – city  
council, the  
Sanhedrin,

G3474 - fool

in danger of hell fire.

G1067 –  
Gehenna,

G4442 – "pyros"

Scriptures:  
Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar,

Notes:  
Jesus tells His followers to take the initiative to reconcile when they are in conflict with others. Remember that God the Father took the initiative to reconcile us back to Himself by sending Jesus even before we knew we were estranged from Him (Rom. 5:8).

and there remember that your brother has

G3415 -

something against you,

G2596 -

Scriptures:

24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go

Notes:

your way. First be reconciled to your brother,

G1259 – make  
peace

and then come and offer your gift.

Scriptures:

25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while

Notes:

G2132 – consider  
favorably.

G476 – legal  
opponent

you are on the way with him, lest your

adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge

hand you over to the officer, and you be

thrown into prison.



<sup>26</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no

means get out of there till you have paid the

last penny.

Scriptures:

27 “You have heard that it was said to those of

Notes:

Adultery has the meaning of ‘marriage breaker’.

“Married or single, purity calls us to the highest regard for others, to see them as persons and not as bodies to be used for our pleasure.”

Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman for a lifetime. Adultery breaks the covenant.

old, *You shall not commit adultery.*

G3431 – “to commit adultery v. — to have sexual intercourse with other than a spouse, as a married or betrothed person.”

Scriptures:

28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a

Notes:

Lust is a strong desire to be sexually immoral with someone other than their spouse. Jesus is saying that this desire is sin. Even entertaining thoughts of sexual immorality is sin.

G991 -

woman to lust for her has already committed

G1937 – desire greatly, evil desire,

adultery with her in his heart.

Scriptures:

29 If your right eye causes you to ~~sin~~, pluck it

Notes:

Jesus is calling us to the highest possible level of holiness. His desire for us is that we would care so much about our holiness that we would rather be maimed than to give in to sin. This is a calling to extreme deliberate attention to our holiness.

out and cast *it* from you; for

it is more profitable for you that one of your

G4851 – it is better,

members perish, than for your whole body to

G622 – to be lost, destroyed,

be cast into hell.

G1067 - Gehenna

Scriptures:

30 And if your right hand causes you to ~~sin~~,

Notes:

In our culture there is no sense of morality. Today it seems that no perversion is too perverse. Even suggesting that their behavior is perverse is considered hateful.

cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more

profitable for you that one of your members

perish, than for your whole body to be cast

into hell.

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever

<sup>♂</sup> divorces <sup>♂</sup> his <sup>♀</sup> wife, let <sup>♂</sup> him give <sup>♀</sup> her a certificate

G630 – "to divorce ⇔  
send away v. – to  
formally terminate a  
marriage or engagement,  
conceived of as sending a  
wife away."

<sup>♂</sup> of divorce.'

Scriptures:

32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his

wife for any reason except sexual immorality

G4202 -  
fornication

causes her to commit adultery; and whoever

marries a woman who is divorced commits

adultery.

Notes:

Sexual immorality or fornication is any sexual activity other than between a man and woman in the bonds of the marriage covenant.

Sexual immorality on the part of one of the spouses is a condition under which divorce is allowed. But from that we should not suggest that divorce is required if there is sexual immorality. There must always be space for repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

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