

Principles of the Kingdom - 2

In our last study we began to look at the principles or laws of the Kingdom. The Gospel of Matthew follows a pattern similar to the Books of the Law in the Old Testament. There are 5 books in the Law (Genesis to Deuteronomy) and the Gospel of Matthew can also be divided into 5 sections. The Law was given to the Children of Israel by Moses, and in Matthew 5 – 7 we read the Laws of the Kingdom that were given to God's people by someone greater than Moses – and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's see what Jesus says about the Law.

THE FULFILMENT OF THE LAW Matthew 5:17-201. Jesus Fulfilled the Law v17, 18

Sometimes Christians wonder if the Old Testament laws are still important. After all Jesus came to set us free from the law! However we need to understand that the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament. Jesus said He didn't come to _____ the law, but rather to _____ it. He not only mentioned the Law, but also the Prophets. This included all the Old Testament Scriptures.



How do you think Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets?

Jesus perfectly fulfilled every command and prophecy in the Old Testament. In v18 He says that even the smallest detail, like the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet would be fulfilled. No one has ever been able to fulfil all of God's law. Jesus has, and now He is able to save us from the punishment we deserve for breaking God's law. Hebrews 7:27, 28

2. We are to Keep the Law v20

Jesus tells us that we are not to be like the _____. These were a group of Jewish leaders who were very strict about keeping the Laws of Moses and the hundreds of extra laws the Jews had written to interpret God's Laws. They said man could only please God by obeying all these laws. But they only kept them outwardly, while their hearts were far from God. Jesus says we cannot enter the kingdom of God by _____ religious observance.

The law is concerned with what comes from the heart. In Matthew 5 Jesus goes on to list 6 commands that were quoted by these Teachers of the Law, and to show their real meaning. Notice that each time Jesus quotes these commands He says, "You have heard that it was said long ago ..." or something similar. Although these laws came from the Old Testament, they had been wrongly interpreted. And they often are today too. We need to look carefully at these laws and see how Jesus wants us to live in His Kingdom.



Go through the commands that Jesus quotes and see how He really wants us to obey these words.

Verse	Laws in the Old Testament	Principles of the Kingdom of God
Matthew 5:21	'Do not murder' Exodus 20:13	What is the true meaning of this verse? Matthew 5:22 What must we do if someone has something against us? Matthew 5:23-24
Matthew 5:27	'Do not commit adultery' Exodus 20:14	What is the true meaning of this verse? Matthew 5:28
Matthew 5:31	'Anyone who divorces his wife ..' Deuteronomy 24:1-4	Jesus gives us a higher standard than the Old Testament. What is it? Matthew 5:32
Matthew 5:33	'Do not break your oath' Numbers 30:2	Matthew 5:34-37
Matthew 5:38	'Eye for an eye' Exodus 21:24	Matthew 5:39-41
Matthew 5:43	'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy' Leviticus 19:18	Why are we to love our enemies?

God gave the Law to His people in the Old Testament to teach them how He wanted them to live. The Law showed God's righteous standards. However man failed to keep the laws. Laws cannot change hearts, but they were given to show man his need of a _____.

Jesus came and perfectly fulfilled God's Law. He now offers us forgiveness for breaking God's law and gives us His Spirit so we can keep His law. This law is not just concerned with _____ but _____.

As we obey the laws of the Kingdom from our hearts we will receive and enjoy the blessings of the Kingdom. Jesus said, "Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven."