

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S7E17
Abolish & Fulfill - Matthew 5:17-20

Description – Join us today as we begin to examine what Jesus meant when He said that He had come to fulfill the Law.

Welcome back to the podcast! Robby & Kandi just returned from the LH trip to England & Scotland, saw some incredible sights.

Last week we looked at “salt & light.” Today we’re looking at Matthew 5:17-20

Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:17-20 really is the hinge point of the entire sermon on the mount, because it’s Jesus talking about the Law and how He relates to it.

Jesus says right out of the gate that he’s not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill.

There’s lots of confusion over this statement. Even the heretic Marcion in the 2nd century wanted nothing to do with the Old Testament and anything Jewish. He was roundly rejected as a heretic by his contemporaries.

Thomas Jefferson also created his own “bible.” He removed anything supernatural or miraculous.

The Law - The whole old testament, not just the Torah.

There are two key words that Jesus says here:

1. Abolish - to destroy, to set aside, to mis-interpret, to demolish
2. Fulfill - to complete the design of something, to interpret correctly,

Jesus is saying, “I didn’t come to set aside or get rid of the Law, my purpose is to help you interpret the Law correctly.”

Example: When you're making a drawing, you always sketch out lightly with a pencil the outline for the rest of the drawing or painting.

The old testament is the pencil sketch of Jesus's outline that Jesus fills full the OT with color. If you throw away the old testament, the outline, then you won't know how to fulfill the law.

Laws were important, even in the New Testament.

Acts 15:19-21

¹⁹ Therefore, in my judgment, we should not cause difficulties for those among the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but instead we should write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For since ancient times, Moses has had those who proclaim him in every city, and every Sabbath day he is read aloud in the synagogues."

James (the half brother of Jesus) here at the Jerusalem Counsel says that Gentiles converting should still be careful to abstain from 4 things to have table fellowship with Jews:

1. Abstain from things polluted by idols
2. Abstain from sexual immorality
3. Abstain from eating anything strangled
4. Abstain from eating / drinking blood.

Remember, they didn't see the law as a bad thing or as a restriction on their happiness. It was God's guardrails for their lives to keep them safe, happy and healthy.