

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E21

Law and Grace - Matthew 5:17-20

Description – Join us today as we turn our attention back to Matthew 5

Don't forget that the live recording is coming up at Long Hollow on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

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.

CSB Harmony of the Gospels:

<https://www.amazon.com/CSB-Harmony-Gospels-Steven-Cox/dp/1087768462/>

Link to episode on different translations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sldqdW0LF1c>

“Fulfill” - Greek word, “pleroó” means To fill, to make full, to complete, to fulfill

Grace - Matthew Bates - some are critical of him, but the book he wrote is called, “Salvation by allegiance alone”

<https://www.amazon.com/Salvation-Allegiance-Alone-Rethinking-Gospel/dp/0801097975/>

Matthew Bates argues that faith is better understood or translated as “allegiance.”

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone.” - Dallas Willard

Everything we have is from Grace, empowered by Grace, to Grace. God has given us the grace fo the assignment He has called us to.

God won't judge us based on the depth of our ministry, or the size of our bank account. He's going to judge us based on our faithfulness to Him.

Matthew 5:19

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.

Val komer commands - light to heavy weighty commands.

There are 365 negative commands (DON'T DO THIS...)

There are 235 positive commands (DO THIS...)

Some commands have more "weight" to them than others. Do not murder is more weighty than do not carry off a birds nest with a mother bird in it... etc.

When the Lawyer asks Jesus what is the "greatest" command in the Law? He's saying, what's the weightiest command? Jesus answers, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 5:20

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Next time we'll look at this verse, but your homework is to try to determine what this verse means.