

**The Gospel Era:
Jesus--Teaching, Ministry, Miracles**

**Christ College: Week Eleven
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Kingdom Righteousness

MATTHEW 5:17-48

Jesus' Attitude Toward the Law

(Matthew 5:17-20)

- “Not to abolish but fulfill the Law.”
 - Jesus validates the intention of the Law.
 - Jesus brings the Law to its climax.
 - Jesus' teaching transcends and extends the Law.

- “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees...”
 - The Law cannot get (or keep) one in the Kingdom.
 - The Kingdom demands a new kind of righteousness.

Structure of Passage

- Six Topics from the Law
 - Law: “You have heard that it was said...”
 - Jesus: “But I say to you...”
- Central Questions
 - How is Jesus altering the Law?
 - What do the alterations demand of the disciples and us?

Murder

(Matthew 5:21-26)

- Law: “You shall not murder”
 - Exodus 20:13
 - Murder = physical act that ceases life
 - Jesus: You shall not murder or harbor anger
 - “Murder” = physical act and inner desire
 - Both sever life/relationships
- CHANGE: EXPANSION

Adultery

(Matthew 5:27-30)

- Law: “You shall not commit adultery”
 - Exodus 20:14
 - Adultery = physical act
- Jesus: You shall not commit adultery or lust
 - “Adultery” = physical act and inner desire
 - Both break down the marriage bond

■ CHANGE: EXPANSION

Divorce and Remarriage

(Matthew 5:31-32)

- Law: Divorce (only) requires a certificate
 - Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - Divorce = a legal act (males only)
- Jesus: Elective divorce makes the woman an adulterer
 - Rejection of the usury of women/people
 - Act of divorce must be taken much more seriously

■ CHANGE: CONSTRICTION

Oaths

(Matthew 5:33-37)

- Law: "You shall not swear oaths falsely"
 - Leviticus 19:12
 - Swear oaths, but just do not swear falsely
- Jesus: "Do not swear oaths at all"
 - Voluntary oaths are prohibited & meaningless
 - The Kingdom demands truthful speech

■ CHANGE: CONSTRICTION

Retaliation

(Matthew 5:38-42)

- Law: Eye for eye, tooth for tooth
 - Leviticus 24:10-23 (communal law)
 - Places a limitation on measureless revenge
- Jesus: 'Turn the other cheek'
 - Individual retaliation is prohibited
 - Resistance is not prohibited
 - Kingdom demands removal of social hierarchies

■ CHANGE: CONSTRICTION

Love/Hate/Neighbor

(Matthew 5:43-47)

- Law: “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy”
 - Part of Jewish ‘oral law’ (not in OT)
 - Neighbor = those like you, therefore hate selectively
- Jesus: Love your enemies & pray for your persecutors
 - Love & prayer remove the category of “enemy”
 - Kingdom demands universal (not selective) love
- CHANGE: EXPANSION/CONSTRUCTION

Demand

(Matthew 5:48)

- “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
 - Our guide for righteousness is not the Law.
 - Our guide for righteousness is is the Spirit.
- LOFTY DEMAND IS MET BY GRACE!

The Miracles of Jesus

MATTHEW 8-9; 14-15

Miracles in Jesus' Ministry

- Common Definition
 - "Events which defy the natural order"
- Purpose of Jesus' Miracles
 - Not Jesus "showing off"
 - Confirm God is active in Jesus
 - "Living Parables": Confirm KOG message
 - Elicit faith

Types of Miracles

- Natural Miracles
 - An alteration of nature/the natural order
 - E.g., Matthew 14:22-33
 - "Walking on Water"
 - Communicate: Jesus is Lord over creation
 - Faith?

Types of Miracles

- Healing Miracles
 - A restoration of health or even life
 - E.g., Matthew 9:18-26
 - Deceased daughter & Bleeding woman
 - Communicate: Jesus is Lord over life/health
 - Faith?

Types of Miracles

- Spiritual Miracles
 - A removal of spirits or demons
 - E.g., Matthew 15:21-28
 - Canaanite woman/demon possessed daughter
 - Communicate: Jesus is Lord over spiritual realm
 - Faith?
