

The Mind of Christ

This Is My Beloved Son, Hear Him! – Part 2

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Last week we took a close look at the statement God made regarding Jesus, on the mount of transfiguration
 - A. When God declared, *“This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”* (**Luke 9:35**), God was clearly giving JESUS and HIS teachings PRE-EMINENCE over the LAW and the PROPHETS.
 1. This is NOT saying the Law of Moses and the prophets could be completely disregarded at THAT time.
 - a. The disciples of the Lord needed to KEEP the Law because it was STILL IN EFFECT at that time.
 2. However, what God wanted the Lord’s disciples to understand is that Jesus had come to bring into existence a NEW COVENANT – a NEW LAW – and that He had ALSO come to bring into existence a NEW KINGDOM.
 - a. That NEW KINGDOM which would be founded on the NEW COVENANT would include a NEW LAW that would govern the people of God which would be the GOSPEL OF CHRIST (The New Testament).

- b. This is why we read about Jesus preaching the “*GOSPEL of the kingdom of heaven,*” or the “*GOSPEL of the kingdom of God.*”
 - c. Therefore, the preaching and teaching of Jesus was to prepare His followers for the coming kingdom.
- II. So, why do we need to spend time trying to prove something most of us already believe?
- A. The reason is because there is a very dangerous teaching among brethren today that’s finding its way into churches across the country, and in particular churches in the Northwest.
 - 1. In essence, this doctrinal position says MOST of the teachings of Jesus were only to CLARIFY the teachings of the Law of Moses, and are of NO SIGNIFICANCE to us today.
 - 2. They say the teachings of Jesus are not intended for US because they were spoken EXCLUSIVELY to the Jews of His day.
 - 3. In fact, here are some quotes from a book that advocates this false teaching.
 - a. This brother writes, “*the vast majority of the teaching of Jesus Christ in the gospels is not New Covenant teaching at all. Rather, it is that of a faithful Jewish rabbi correctly interpreting the Mosaic Law to his brethren, and urgently warning them of imminent national judgment on their nation if*

they don't repent." (Sam Dawson, *The Teaching of Jesus*, Introduction)

- b. Consider this statement also: "We see that everything in *Matthew 5* is out of the Law of Moses. Rather than Jesus contrasting his New Covenant with the Mosaic one, he contrasted the Mosaic one with the shallow, hypocritical, outward shell many Jews of his day had made out of Moses. The contrast was between the Law of Moses and Judaism, or outward vs. inward religion." (Ibid, p. 135)
- c. Finally, consider this statement: "As we've come to the end of a brief journey through the Sermon on the Mount, we've not found one thing in this sermon that is not in the Law of Moses. The Sermon on the Mount is not New Covenant teaching, but Old Covenant. Jesus was striving to restore the Jews of his day, to avoid the destruction of the nation." (Ibid. p. 152)

III. If all this sounds hard to accept, it should be! And here are some reasons why:

- A. First, this teaching denies the SIGNIFICANCE of the fact that, "Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God..." (**Mark 1:14; cf. Matthew 4:23; 9:35, Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:11**)

1. When Jesus went about all Galilee preaching “the gospel (good news) of the kingdom,” He told the Jews of His day, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*” **(Mark 1:14-15)**
 2. Jesus was preparing His hearers for the COMING KINGDOM founded on THE GOSPEL.
 - a. That’s not what I SAY, that’s what MARK says – so if someone has an argument with this, they need to take it up with MARK!
- B. Second, this false teaching denies the prophecy of John that the axe was ALREADY laid at the root of the Jewish nation **(Matthew 3:10; Luke 3:9)** – Jerusalem’s fate had ALREADY been cast, and NOTHING was going to change it.
1. Therefore, Jesus was NOT trying to get the Jews of His day to repent so they could avoid the coming destruction of the nation of Israel!
 - a. The fate of Israel had ALREADY been determined.
 2. It truly amazes me that ANYONE would say Jesus was trying to prevent the destruction of the nation of Israel, when He came for the purpose of establishing a NEW COVENANT and a NEW SPIRITUAL KINGDOM, the CHURCH!

- a. In fact, the NEW SPIRITUAL KINGDOM, and the NEW COVENANT would AUTOMATICALLY spell the doom of the nation of Israel and the Old Testament Law of Moses!
 - b. THAT’S WHY CHRIST CAME in the first place – to REPLACE the kingdom of Israel and the Old Law with the KINGDOM OF CHRIST and the NEW LAW.
 - c. So why would the Lord be trying to PRESERVE something He came to DO AWAY with?
 - d. And yet this brother contends that – in his own words: *“Jesus was striving to restore the Jews of his day, to avoid the destruction of the nation.”*
- C. But, the BIGGEST OBJECTION I have to this teaching is that it relegates the teachings of Jesus to NOTHING MORE than a FUTILE attempt on His part to correct the Jews’ misunderstanding about the Law of Moses!
1. If that’s true – if ALL Jesus was doing was trying to correct their MISUNDERSTANDING of the Law of Moses – then ALL those wonderful teachings and parables of Jesus WOULD have no direct, or specific, meaning to us today.
 2. So, let’s go back to the Sermon on the Mount and see for ourselves. Let’s see if Jesus WAS simply trying to correct Jewish

misunderstanding about the Law of Moses, OR if He was doing something else.

BODY:

- I. I want us to take a close look at the teachings of Jesus in **Matthew 5:21-48**, and see what Jesus was ACTUALLY teaching here.
 - A. Over and over Jesus says, *"You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you."*
 1. The phrase *"You have heard that it was said to those of old"* is a VERY significant statement.
 - a. The brother we quoted from earlier has this to say about this section of the Sermon on the Mount: "As suggested in the introduction to our study of the Sermon on the Mount, many take these statements as a contrast between the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ. However, we'll see in this section that Jesus didn't contrast the New Covenant with the Mosaic Covenant. He contrasted what the Jews had made out of the Mosaic Covenant with Moses! Thus, in each of these six statements, **Jesus taught exactly what Moses taught...!**"
 2. **I categorically deny that!!** In fact, when we examine OTHER translations of these verses, we see something quite different from

what this brother is saying in his book. For example, when we look at Matthew 5:31...

- a. The King James Version says, *"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time..."*
- b. The New King James Version says, *"You have heard that it was said to those of old..."*
- c. The New International Version says, *"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago..."*
- d. The New American Standard Bible, which is a more accurate translation, renders it, *"You have heard that the ancients were told..."*

3. In other words Jesus is saying this is what *"YOU have heard,"* when the Law is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.

4. And, Jesus is saying what YOU HEARD is the SAME THING that *"was said **BY** them of old,"* and was ALSO *"what was said **TO** those of old,"* and was ALSO *"what was said to the **PEOPLE** long ago,"* and was ALSO *"what the **ANCIENTS** were told."*

B. So, just what were the "people long ago", or the "ancients" actually told?

1. In other words, here's what we want to find out:

- a. When Jesus said, “you have heard that it was said to them of old,” was He saying, “you’ve heard a MISINTERPRETATION of the Law, and I’m going to give you the REAL meaning?”
- b. Or was he saying, “you have heard the SAME THING those OF OLD heard – you’ve heard the Law of Moses and what it ACTUALLY teaches, BUT I’M declaring to you the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM – which includes DIFFERENT STANDARDS and DIFFERENT LAWS by which MY disciples will be judged in the coming kingdom?”

II. To answer that question, lets now turn our attention to **Matthew 5:21-48**:

A. In **Matthew 5:21**, Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said TO those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'"*

1. Now let me ask you this question: What did the Law of Moses teach? The Law of Moses taught:

a. **Exodus 20:13** – *"You shall not murder."*

b. **Exodus 21:12-14** – *"He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee. But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die."*

c. **Leviticus 24:17** – *"Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death."*

2. Now I want to ask THIS question: What was it about THIS LAW that the Jews of Jesus day misunderstood? What was the DIFFERENCE between what they had HEARD and what the Law of Moses ACTUALLY TAUGHT? Answer: NONE!

a. If you were to ask them if it's okay to commit murder, they would have said "No! The Law of Moses forbids it."

3. Therefore, Jesus WASN'T trying to correct their MISUNDERSTANDING of the Law of Moses, because they heard EXACTLY what the Law of Moses taught.

4. Now, let me ask this: Did the Jews ever ABUSE this commandment? Sure they did! They felt as long as they didn't commit MURDER, they could still HATE their brother.

5. That's why in **Matthew 5:22**, Jesus said, *"BUT I SAY to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."*

a. In other words, Jesus said a man is going to be judged by the attitude of his heart RATHER THAN SOLEY by his ACTIONS.

b. Now, if Jesus was teaching the SAME THING as the Law of Moses here, then where does the Law of Moses say that a

man who is SIMPLY ANGRY with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment? The Law of Moses NEVER said that!

5. Therefore, Jesus was NOT teaching what the Law of Moses taught. He was **CONTRASTING** what the **Law of Moses** taught with what **THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST** requires of the Lord's disciples.

6. Let's look at another example.

B. In **Matthew 5:27** Jesus said, *"You have heard that it was said TO those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery."*

1. What did the Law of Moses teach on the subject of adultery?

2. Let's see:

a. **Exodus 20:14** – *"You shall not commit adultery."*

b. **Leviticus 20:10** – *"The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death."*

3. Now, let me ask again: Is there ANY difference between what they HEARD and what the Law of Moses TAUGHT? NONE WHATSOEVER!

4. Was there anything about this commandment in the LAW that the Jews of Jesus' day DIDN'T understand? NONE WHATSOEVER!

5. Did the Jews ever ABUSE this commandment? CERTAINLY!
They felt as long as they didn't actually COMMIT adultery, they were okay.
 6. That's why in **Matthew 5:28** JESUS said, "**But I say** to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
 - a. Jesus made it CRYSTAL CLEAR that even LUSTING after another man's wife (or ANY woman, for that fact) constitutes ADULTERY IN THE HEART.
 - b. While the Law of Moses condemned COVETING your neighbor's wife, the Law NEVER called coveting a man's wife ADULTERY! That was something the Law of Moses NEVER SAID!
 - c. Once again, Jesus CONTRASTS the teaching of the Law of Moses with the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM.
 7. Let's look at the next example.
- C. In **Matthew 5:31-32** Jesus went on to say, "**Furthermore it has been said**, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'"
1. It's interesting to note that the Law of Moses did not actually COMMANDED this. The requirement to give a divorced woman a

certificate of divorce was a CIVIL LAW adopted by the Jews in the days of Moses.

- a. Perhaps that's why Jesus told His audience, "*It has been SAID...*" and NOT, "*You have heard that it was said TO those of old...*"
 - b. Jesus and the Jews of His day understood that this was not something said **TO** THOSE OF OLD by God, but rather something God ALLOWED those of old to **DO**.
2. The Law of Moses NEVER COMMANDED or REQUIRED the giving of a certificate of divorce, but ALLOWED IT according to **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**.
 3. In fact, there are only three places in the entire Old Testament where the words "*certificate of divorce*" are mentioned.
 - a. Twice in **Deuteronomy 24**, where the Law of Moses ALLOWS the giving of a certificate of divorce.
 - b. Once in **Jeremiah 3:8** where the Lord said He had given a certificate of divorce to adulterous Israel – Israel had given herself to other gods and thus committed spiritual adultery against the Lord.
 4. Therefore, the the Law of Moses ALLOWED or PERMITTED a man to give his divorced wife a certificate of divorce.

5. Did the Jews ever take advantage of the PERMISSION they were granted to give their divorced wives a certificate of divorce? Sure they did!
6. Many came to the conclusion they could divorce their wives for just ANY reason. That's why Jesus said, in **Matthew 8:32**, that HE RESTRICTS DIVORCE **ONLY** to cases involving ADULTERY, and adultery ONLY!
 - a. *“But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”*
 - b. Later, when Jesus has a run-in with the Pharisees in Matthew chapter 19, He will make it CRYSTAL CLEAR that God's laws covering divorce and remarriage have been **“FROM the beginning”** – meaning, God's laws on marriage, divorce, and remarriage have ALWAYS been the same, and have remain UNCHANGED *“from the beginning.”*
 - c. But in THIS instance, Jesus was once again CONTRASTING what the Law of Moses ALLOWED with what GOSPEL OF CHRIST teaches about marriage, divorce and remarriage.
7. Let's look at another example.

D. In **Matthew 5:33** Jesus said, *"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'"*

1. What did the Law of Moses teach?

a. **Leviticus 19:12** – *"And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD."*

b. **Numbers 30:1-2** – *"Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, 'This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.'"*

2. There's absolutely NO DIFFERENCE here between what they HEARD and what the Law of Moses actually TAUGHT.

3. Did the Jews ever take advantage of this law? Absolutely! They made all kinds of oaths.

4. That's why in **Matthew 5:34** Jesus said, *"But I say to you, DO NOT SWEAR AT ALL..."*

a. Jesus said WE need to simply let our "yes be yes" and our "no be no."

- b. But you can search the Law of Moses from cover to cover and NEVER find where the Law said, *“do not swear at all!”*
 - c. Once again, Jesus CONTRASTS the Law of Moses and GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
6. Let’s look at the next example.
- D. In **Matthew 5:38** Jesus said, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’”*
- 1. What did the Law of Moses teach?
 - a. **Exodus 21:22-25** – *“If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”*
 - b. **Leviticus 24:19-20** – *“If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him — fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.”*
 - c. **Deuteronomy 19:15-21** – *“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by*

the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

2. Once again, there's NO DIFFERENCE between what they HEARD and what the Law of Moses actually TAUGHT.
3. Did the Jews misuse these commandments? Absolutely! They often interpreted these commandments to mean they were free to exact retribution anytime they wished.
4. That's why in **Matthew 5:39** Jesus said we are "*NOT to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*"

5. Now let me ask again: where did the Law of Moses say, *“do not resist an evil person, but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also?”*
 - a. I see examples where a man COULD HAVE sought retribution, but didn't – one good example is when David secretly cut off a piece of Saul's robe. **(1 Samuel 24:1-22)**
 - b. But the Law never COMMANDED this principle the way Jesus did.
 - c. Once again, Jesus makes a CONTRAST between the Law of Moses and the GOSPEL OF CHRIST!
 6. Let's look at one final example.
- E. In **Matthew 5:43** Jesus said, *“You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'”*
1. Again we ask, what did the Law of Moses teach?
 - a. **Leviticus 19:18** – *“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”*
 - b. **Deuteronomy 7:1-2** – *“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier*

than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them.

You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them."

- c. **Psalm 139:21-22** – *"Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies."*

2. It should be ABUNDENTLY clear that the Law of Moses permitted the Children of Israel to CAST OUT the ungodly nations before them, and UTTERLY DESTROY them off the face of the earth. The psalmist even said He HATED the enemies of God *"with a PERFECT hatred!"*
3. Did the Jews ever take ADVANTAGE of these commandments? Sure they did! In fact, we see them taking the law into their own hands at the trials and crucifixion of Jesus – the Jewish religious leaders felt COMPLETELY justified in condemning Jesus to death, because they considered Him THEIR enemy!
4. That's why in **Matthew 5:44** Jesus said we are to LOVE our enemies, BLESS those who curse us, DO GOOD to those who hate us, and PRAY for those who spitefully use us and persecute us.

5. Once again, Jesus CONTRASTS what the Law of Moses taught with what HE would require of HIS disciples in the kingdom of heaven.

III. Now I want to ask once again, Was there ANY DIFFERENCE between what they HEARD and what the Law of Moses and the prophets ACTUALLY TAUGHT, or ALLOWED?

A. The answer is; ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFERENCE WHATSOEVER!

1. The **ONLY** differences that exist in Matthew 5:21-48, are between what the **LAW OF MOSES** TAUGHT and what **JESUS** TAUGHT!
2. The Law of Moses was a law that dealt with civil and religious practices. But one of the major WEAKNESSES of that Law was that you could only judge the OUTER actions of others, not the CONDITION of, or the MOTIVES , their HEART.
 - a. In other words, those who judged in those days were limited to judging cases where someone was ACTUALLY KILLED (Matthew 5:21), or when someone ACTUALLY COMMITTED ADULTERY (Mathew. 5:27), or when someone ACTUALLY BROKE AN OATH (Matthew 5:33).
3. However, in the kingdom of heaven, the JUDGE (Jesus Christ) has the ability to look into the HEART.

- a. Therefore, judgment will be rendered at the POINT OF SIN'S CONCEPTION – ANGER (Matthew 5:22), LUST (Matthew 5:28), or an oath taken with NO INTENTION OF KEEPING IT (Matthew 5:34).
 - b. In other words, under the New Covenant we are held accountable for our THOUGHTS and our ATTITUDES as well as our OUTWARD ACTS!
- B. Furthermore, there are two places in these verses where the teachings of Jesus are COMPLETELY OPPOSITE from what the Law and prophets taught.
1. In **Matthew 5:39** Jesus said in His kingdom men are **NOT** to be regulated by an *"eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."*
 2. And in **Matthew 5:44** Jesus ALSO said citizens of the new kingdom are **NOT** permitted to *"hate their enemies"* – rather, LOVE them.
 3. These weren't CLARIFICATIONS of Law of Moses – they were RADICALLY DIFFERENT from the Law of Moses.

CONCLUSION:

- I. So what can we conclude from all this?

- A. The Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5 through 7, is a WONDERFUL EXAMPLE of Jesus *“preaching the gospel of the kingdom of heaven”!*
1. Although Jesus taught men to respect the Law and the prophets, He did NOT come to earth to REESTABLISH them, NOR to CORRECT MISUNDERSTANDINGS the Jews may have had regarding the teachings of the Law. That was NEVER His purpose!
 2. In fact, Jesus HIMSELF said His PURPOSE was to preach the kingdom of God - NOT to correctly interpret the Law of Moses.
 - a. **Luke 4:43-44** (Mark 1:35-39) – *“But He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.’ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.”*
 3. To say that Jesus came for the purpose of properly interpreting the Law of Moses makes JESUS a false teacher!
 - a. JESUS said, *“I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for THIS PURPOSE I have been sent!”*
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II. There is one more passage I want you to consider.

- A. In **Luke 16:16** Jesus said, *“The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.”*
1. Jesus made it ABUNDENTLY CLEAR to His disciples that the Law of Moses and the prophets were preached UNTIL JOHN came, but SINCE THAT TIME, the message of the kingdom of God has been preached.
 - a. Jesus did HIS preaching and teaching AFTER John the Baptist came to prepare the way.
 - b. Therefore, even JESUS HIMSELF said He had NOT come to preach the Law of Moses and the prophets – even though the Law of Moses and the prophets were STILL IN EFFECT. Jesus lived and died under the Old Covenant.
 - c. Jesus said SINCE JOHN, the KINGDOM OF GOD, the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD was being preached, **and everyone is pressing into it** – people were in the process of turning their hearts to Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God!
 2. No wonder Mark opens his gospel account about the life and teachings of Jesus with these words: *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)*
 3. Have you obeyed *“the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?”*