



# *WHERE'S THE LINE*

A NEW SERMON SERIES

# NOTES

## *for today's message*

- The Sermon on the Mount describes what it looks like to be a part of the kingdom of God. It's an upside down way of living.
  - Being poor makes you rich
  - Power is not for being served, but to serve
  - Jesus would have been seen as a Rabbi
- The job of a Rabbi or teacher is to make the law of God clear.
- We hear about the law of God and we don't really struggle to understand what it means; we just want to see if we can squeeze it down to something we can manage.
- Jesus in his teaching would be clarifying the law
- His teaching would have been called a "Yoke"

**MATTHEW 5:17-20** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- To the Jewish audience, entrance into the Kingdom of God by grace without mentioning Law sounded completely wrong.

**MATTHEW 5:17-18** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

**LUKE 16:17** But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.



- Jot- smallest letter in the Hebrew language
- Tittle- a little tail on a letter that changes the meaning
- This is the view of the Bible that Jesus had
  - The scriptures come from God; not just the basic principles
  - Down to the letter; the smallest detail
  - You can't accept Jesus, but reject the Bible
  - Jesus said God's word will not be abolished; it must be fulfilled

**MATTHEW 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

- When Jesus references the Law and the Prophets, he is talking about the entire Old Testament.
- The people of Israel had been commanded to follow every word of:
  - 10 Commandments
  - First five books of the Bible which is called the Pentateuch
  - 613 different commands
  - Entire Old Testament Bible
- So Jesus is saying, "Not only do I have the authority to teach scripture, but I also believe in the authority of scripture."
  - Jesus loved the sacred scripture
  - it all came from him to begin with
  - Jesus is the Word

### **3 Questions to help us understand:**

1. What Was the Purpose of The Old Testament Law?
2. Did Jesus Really Fulfill the Law?
3. How Should a Christian Now Relate to The Law?

## **1. PURPOSES FOR THE LAW**

- The Law revealed the holiness of God to the nation of Israel.
- The Law set the Israelites apart as distinct from other nations.
- The Law didn't provide salvation for the Israelites, it revealed their sinfulness.
- The Law provided a way for the Israelites to receive temporary forgiveness. (there was a whole system of offerings and sacrifices set up to provide forgiveness.)
- It brought the people together to worship the Lord through feast and festivals.
- It provided God's direction for physical and spiritual health.
- Ultimately, the Law pointed the Israelites to their need for a Savior.

- No matter how many times you offered a sacrifice, none of it had the ability to, once and for all, pay for your failure to keep the law.
- **GOD SET THE BAR SO HIGH THAT THEY COULD NOT REACH IT**
  - To show them their sin problem
  - To show them that what they really needed was a Savior

## 2. DID JESUS REALLY FULFILL THE LAW?

- The law demanded 2 things: Obedience and Death
- Jesus lived them out perfectly. He accomplished the law to perfection

**HEBREWS 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**MATTHEW 5:18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- When Jesus said “It is Finished” on the Cross, he was declaring the Mosaic Law is now fulfilled; nothing more needs to be added to it.

## 3. HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN RELATE TO THE LAW?

- The moral principles of God today have been moved over to the New Testament. They have become part of the covenant of Grace

**MATTHEW 5:19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- Jesus is not teaching them they have to be obedient for salvation, but obedient out of relationship with God

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**GALATIANS 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

- This is about love
- You will want to be obedient to God because you love Jesus.
- In return, Jesus says: I'll help you when you cross the line



# STUDY GUIDE

*questions for later*

## Discussion:

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?

2. Reality check: Paul David Tripp wrote, "If you look into the mirror of God's Word and see someone in need of grace, why would you be impatient with others who share that need?"

How does knowing God's standard, our inability to live up to it, and Jesus' perfect fulfillment of it move us closer to Jesus and living out His patience and grace to those around us?

3. Read Matthew 5:17-20.

- How was the Old Testament Law meant to drive the Israelites to God? How is Jesus driving us to Him?
- If the Old Testament Law was impossible for us to attain, how can we accomplish what Jesus is teaching?
- As we move close to Jesus, how do obedience and love become one and the same?
- How does your relationship with Jesus revolve around confession, repentance, forgiveness and change?

## Action Steps:

• **HEART** - discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the daily devotional or a daily scripture reading plan. Invite three people of your same gender to form a Discipleship Group, committing to meet weekly for a year to discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus, together.

Contact [Brad@northridgenow.org](mailto:Brad@northridgenow.org) for more information on forming a group.

• **HARD TO REACH** - identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.

• **HOME** - spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others.

• **HURTING** - identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.