

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

PROGRAM 6 (#912176)

WEEK 2 (912340)

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SERIES: Sermon On The Mount

TITLE: Program 6 – What Does Jesus Say About The Law?

MONDAY

OPEN

Do you feel like your life lacks a sense of purpose? Do you wonder if you really are of any value to the kingdom of heaven? Listen to me carefully. If you are truly a child of God, you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world and you are causing others to be restrained from evil because of the very presence of your life. You have value. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus after giving the blessings for those that have the character that belongs to every child of God, He then tells about the conflict that is going to come because we're in a world that is in darkness and we're now in light. We're a people that are walking in righteousness and the world is walking in unrighteousness and so obviously there's going to be a conflict, obviously they're going to persecute us, obviously they're going to insult us, obviously they're going to say all manner of evil against us for

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His name's sake because we've taken away their cloak, their covering for sin because we're living righteously and so He turns to them and this is what he says, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13) Do you see what He's saying? "You are," not "you shall be" or not "you should be" but "you are light." You are salt. This is what you are. He says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14) You're a city that is set on a hill so to speak. He says, "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under a peck measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house." (Matthew 5:15) Do you know what you are? You're a light that God has lit. You are a candle that God has set on fire. You are there to dispel darkness. He says now, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who's in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Do you realize, Beloved, that every time you live as salty salt, every time, Beloved, you walk as light, walking as Jesus walked, then you are lighting up the world and you are acting as a preservative? Let me tell you about salt in the times of Christ because salt was a lot more important in that time because they didn't have refrigeration. He's saying that you are a preservative. Salt was a preservative. It stopped the spread of corruption. In Judges when Alemelech takes the city then he raises it with salt. He would take salt and he would put it over the city, because nothing would ever grow there again. It would become infertile. Now listen. Have you ever walked up to a group that were talking and maybe telling dirty jokes or they were swearing or they were talking about their escapades in bed and all of a sudden this conversation changed just immediately or there was a silence? Maybe you were offended but you shouldn't have been offended. You ought to really say in your heart, "Praise God because salt just arrived." And when salt arrives, it's like raising the land and nothing that is of sin then is comfortable or able to grow in your presence. Why? Because you stop the corruption that is going on. You know I've been in places and I've been with friends of

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mine and all of a sudden they were going to swear and it started to come out of their mouth or half of it got out of their mouth and they looked at me and they said, "Oh, excuse me." You know, that is a sign that your life has value, that God is using you. You and I need to understand how important it is for you to be salt. Now listen. They would take the salt. They would use it to stop the spread of corruption. They would use the salt to season food. That's why he says, "... let your speech be seasoned with salt." Let it have grace in it. Let it be words that are from heaven as you respond to people. And what salt does is it makes things palatable. In other words, have you ever made oatmeal without salt? You forgot to put it in and you go to put it in your mouth and you go, "W-eh!" You know? Why? The salt is missing and because the salt is missing then it's not as palatable. And so what you need to do and I need to do is we need to realize that it's important for us to remember that we are salt and to stay salty. What happens when salt is no longer good for anything? They used to say, "Hey, you're worth your salt." That's because in the Old Testament many times they were paid in salt because it was so valuable. Well, when salt has lost its savor this is what they do with it. They just simply take it and they put it down and they use it as a path to walk on. Now it wasn't the fine crystals that we have today. So fine that you can hardly see them but salt was in hunks then. And so when the salt had totally become tasteless. When there was no salt left in that rock then it was good for nothing but to be thrown down and trampled underfoot of men. Now listen to me. You are salt but you need to watch yourself that you stay salty salt. And you stay salty salt by staying in the Word of God. You stay in the Word of God so that you realize how you're to live and you're reminded that you're not to walk as the Gentiles walk, that you're not to talk as the Gentiles or as the world talks, that you're to live life on a higher plane. But, Precious One, when you live life on a higher plane then man, you're doing your job. You're being everything that God wanted you to be. But if you don't stay in the Word and have that constant reminder of the fact that you're not of this earth that you're not of this kingdom that you belong to another kingdom. That you belong that, "...you're citizenship ...,"

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as Philippians 3 says, "... is in heaven whence also you wait for a savior who delivers us from the wrath to come." When you forget that though, when you get away from the Word, when you get too busy then you forget how salty you are to become or you are to be. And what happens then? When you do not walk in the righteousness that God has enabled you to walk in then really, in a sense, your life doesn't have the affect that it should have. And really what happens is people turn around and they just walk all over you. In a sense you are despised, because you're not what you were meant to be. You see the world has high expectations for the child of God. Just remember that. They don't expect you to act like they act. They expect you to live on a higher plane. Now He says, "You are the salt of the earth...", and then he said, "You are the light of the world...." You and I need to remember that Jesus is the true light that lights every man that comes into the world. He gives every man a sense of God consciousness but every man doesn't respond to that. But when you and I respond to the light of the truth of God that He puts in creation and that He puts within and we believe in Jesus Christ then we become disciples of Jesus Christ. And that's what the Sermon on the Mount is all about. What is a true disciple like? What is a true follower of Jesus Christ like? Well if Jesus is the light and He's the light of the world, then you and I walk in His light and you and I reflect His light, and that light then dispels the darkness in the world. This is why when Jesus Christ comes and takes the church out of this world. The darkness is going to be so absolutely incredible because you see we are the ones that are a deterrent to evil, to unbounded evil. So look about you. Look at where you live. Look at your neighborhood. Look at your church. Look at your community. Look at the schools where your children go to school and look at yourself. What is happening because you are in that neighborhood, because you are in that community, because you work where you work? What is happening? Are they seeing light? They're supposed to because, "You are the light of the world and he that walks after Jesus, he that follows after Jesus will not walk in darkness." Now as Jesus says all of this then He turns to them and He says, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or

the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.” (Matthew 5:17) You and I need to understand this because so often people will say, “Hey, I’m not under the Law anymore. I’ve believed in Jesus Christ. I’m under grace and so what happens is we give grace to people in the wrong way. We give a false grace because grace is never licensed to sin. Grace is power to live righteously. So what Jesus wants them to understand is listen, I’m here. Yes, I’m the messenger of the new covenant. My message is repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. My message is that your sins can be forgiven. My message is that you are not going to have the Law written on tables of stone but now the Law’s going to be written on your heart. So Jesus said yes, I’m here but I didn’t come to abolish the Law, I didn’t come to abolish the prophets. I’m a fulfillment of the Law because I live according to the Law. I live in the power of God’s Spirit whom God had placed upon God’s Son so that Jesus as the God man might live an exemplary life before us so that we might become as Paul says become an imitator of me even as I am of Jesus Christ. So Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law and He did that because He lived righteously. He always and only did those things that pleased the Father. But He also fulfilled the prophets because He was the manifestation of the fulfillment of the prophecies that had been given regarding the Messiah. We’ll talk about that a little bit more, when we come back, Beloved.

PART TWO

Jesus goes on to say that the Law is important. Listen to what He says, (Matthew 5:18) “...truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.” Until everything about the Word of God is accomplished. He goes on to say, (Matthew 5:19) “Whoever then annuls one of the least of the commandments, and so teaches others, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; and whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Do you realize the significance of your

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life? Do you realize how valuable you are to the kingdom of God? You're valuable because of the words that you speak and you're valuable because of the lifestyle that you live. And when you live in respect of the commandments of God. Then what we're doing is we're teaching others by our example and we should also be teaching others by our lips, by our words. Do you know people that are living in adultery? You know the commandment. You know what God says. "You shall not commit adultery." So what do you do? You let that be known in love. You let it be known in gentleness and that meekness of character and that humility of character that He talks about that belongs to the child of God. But you also let it be known in mercy. Why? Because those that commit adultery will be judged by God. So what you and I need to see and understand is that wherever we are, that is your mission field. You're salt. You're light. Now you are here as a fulfillment of the Law. You say, "But how can I ever fulfill the Law?" Well you fulfill the Law because when you become a child of God, you get the Spirit of God. I want you to go in your Bibles to Romans chapter 8. And in Romans chapter 8 we have a wonderful, wonderful promise in Romans 8 that people absolutely love to quote. And it's Romans 8, verse 1, "There is now therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." In other words listen. You will never be condemned. You will never see hell. You will never be judged for your sins because Jesus was made to be sin for you and for me because Jesus paid for our sins in full. But listen to what He says, "There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 1:2) "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law ...," or the principle, "...of sin and of death." So there's no condemnation because not only has Jesus paid for your sins but Jesus has given you the Spirit and the Spirit has given you the power to live righteously. He says, (Romans 1:3) "For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh." In other words, when God put His Spirit within you, He gave you the ability, the power to live righteously. How righteously? Well, Matthew chapter 5, verse 20 says,

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“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.” That’s how righteously. Because you can live righteously because the righteous one is in you in the power of the Holy Spirit. So He says, (Romans 1:4) “...in order that the requirement of the Law....” So the Law’s not abolished but, “...in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Now you see if God’s Spirit is in you, you are walking habitually according to the Spirit. Oh yes, you may sin from time to time, but sin is not going to be the continual habit of your life, why? Because you’re the light of the world, because you’re the salt of the earth, because you have hungered and thirst for righteousness. Because you have received the kingdom of heaven and when you receive the kingdom of heaven then the King moves inside and the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit take up their abode in you. All right so He goes on to say, (Romans 8:5) “...for those who are according to the flesh...” Now he’s talking about a contrast between those that are lost and those that are saved, those that are not Christians and those that are genuine Christians. And He says, (Romans 8:5-6) “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the spirit, on the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.” Now, your greatness in the kingdom of heaven depends on the fact that you walk according to the Law of God that you fulfill the righteousness of the Law. You don’t do it in your own strength. You can only do it by walking by the power of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:16 it says, “If we walk by the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.” So you live by the Spirit. You got eternal life by the Spirit. God gave you His Spirit. The kingdom of heaven becomes yours and now you live according to that. Now, let’s go back to Matthew Chapter 5 because we have some important things yet to cover in this session today. He says I want you to know that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees you shall in no way enter the kingdom of heaven.” Now you look at people that

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profess Christ and they're not living close to being salty salt or light in the midst of this darkness you can know, know this, that they don't know God. Their righteousness is not exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees. Now listen. What was the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees? The righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees was in a sense, their exemplary living in respect to the Law. They tried to keep the Law. As a matter of fact they were so zealous for keeping the letter of the Law that what they did was they added prohibitions and positive things to that Law. Dwight Pentecost says in his book that they added 365 negative things. Don't do this, don't do this to make sure that they would not break the Law and they added 250 positive things. Do this, do this to make sure that they kept the letter of the Law. So when He says, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees." He's talking about you living in respect of the Law and you living an exemplary life. Well you say then, "How does my righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees? Because listen, they were only living it externally but not internally. To them it was a mind of practice without a mind of being, without their heart. And so He goes and He begins a discourse. He says, (Matthew 5:21-22) "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder and Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca ...,' " fool, "...shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' you shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." When I said Raca I should have said worthless one.. You're worth nothing. So if you look at someone and you're angry and you hate 'em in your heart, if you look at them and you say, "You are worthless. You have no value." If you look at someone and you say, "You are just a fool," listen. You have missed what righteousness is all about. It's not just the letter. It is a matter of the heart.