

SERMON-BASED STUDY: PLANS

Matthew 5:17-20, ESV – 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. 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. 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.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we learned that God’s plan is fulfilled in Jesus. How exactly has Jesus fulfilled God’s plan?

2 Why is the fact that God’s plan will not change a source of hope for believers?

3 Why is it important for followers of Jesus to adhere to and proclaim God's plan?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Galatians 3:19-26, ESV** – ¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²² But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

4 Looking at the verses above, how does the law point people to Jesus?

5 Why does Paul describe the law as a “guardian”?

6 Since Christ has removed us from the guardianship of the law, what role should the law play in our lives today?

B **Romans 3:21-31, ESV** – ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Matthew 22:34-40, ESV – ³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

7 According to Romans 3:21-31, what does Paul mean by “We uphold the law”?

8 In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus states that all the Law and the Prophets depend on two commandments. Why are these two commandments the greatest?

9 Practically speaking, how can followers of Jesus uphold the law?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus came to complete, or fulfill, the law that was handed down in the Old Testament, not to abolish it, as many have thought. How has this changed your perspective of the law? What role does the law play in your life? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to love God and love people, in accordance to His plan.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 11:13

Luke 16:17

Romans 10:4, 13:8

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Philippians 3:9

Colossians 2:16-17