

“YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID...”

INTRODUCTION

A. **Deuteronomy 18:15, 18**

Moses, through God, foretold of a Prophet, like himself, whom God would raise up in Israel.

1. **Deuteronomy 34:10-12**

This was a truly remarkable statement since the work of Moses was unparalleled.

2. **Acts 3:11-25**

According to the apostle Peter, Christ was the Prophet of Whom Moses spoke.

B. **Matthew 5:17-20**

Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, and thus do away with the Old Law.

1. **Luke 4:16-21**

He claimed to fulfill Old Testament scripture.

2. **Galatians 3:23-25**

It is written concerning the Law that it was a tutor to bring us to Christ, but with the arrival of Christ, the tutor's purpose was fulfilled, no longer being necessary.

3. **Romans 10:4**

With Christ is the end, that is, the fulfillment, of the Law.

C. In that Christ came to fulfill the Law, and is the Prophet who replaced Moses, it is within His authority to replace the precepts of the Law delivered by Moses to Israel.

1. In his sermon from Mount Olivet, the Master Teacher did just that.

2. With a series of statements beginning with the phrase, *“You have heard that it was said”*, Christ quoted a number of Old Testament statutes

and amended them for the New Testament by saying, *“But I say to you...”*

I. “YOU SHALL NOT MURDER”

A. “You Have Heard That It Was Said...”

1. Matthew 5:21

Jesus refers to the Mosaic prohibition against murder.

2. Exodus 20:13

Among the Ten Commandments is the simple statement, *“You shall not murder”*.

3. Exodus 21:12-14

Christ commented, *“Whoever murders shall be in danger of the judgment”*. The judgment of the Old Law was that murderers must suffer the death penalty for their sin.

B. “But I Say To You...”

1. Matthew 5:22

a. 1st John 3:15; 4:20

One need not carry out the act of murder against another to be guilty of the same.

b. Colossians 3:8

Anger should not characterize a Christian.

c. James 1:19

It is not a state of mind one should arrive at quickly.

d. Ephesians 4:26

Not all anger is sin, however. After all, sin, itself, should make us angry!

e. Unkind speech must be refrained from.

i. Ephesians 4:29

Calling others fools and other such names is hardly edifying to anyone.

ii. **Ephesians 4:31**

The Christian must not engage in “evil speaking.”

iii. **James 3:8-12**

It is inconsistent to sit here this morning, singing the praises of God, but go out tomorrow and curse your fellow man.

2. **Matthew 5:23-24**

Worship does not excuse one from sin. On the contrary, one must do away with sin in order to present himself in worship to God.

a. **1st Samuel 15:22**

b. **Hosea 6:6**

c. **Amos 5:21-24**

3. **Matthew 5:25-26**

a. **Proverbs 25:8-10**

Keep your disputes out of court if at all possible.

b. **1st Corinthians 6:1-7**

Among brethren, lawsuits only prove failure.

C. **Current Status**

1. **Matthew 19:16-18**

Murder remains forbidden within the Law of Christ.

2. **Romans 13:1-4**

The death penalty remains a valid punishment for those guilty of murder.

3. **Galatians 5:21; Revelation 21:8**

More than that, the sin of murder will cause one to be refused entrance into the kingdom of God, and instead send him to the lake of fire, the second death.

4. **Matthew 15:19**

Jesus has not altered the sinfulness of murder, but His Law is more severe than the Law of Moses because the heart must be kept in check, since many sins short of murder are sins, nonetheless.

II. **“YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY”**

A. **“You Have Heard That It Was Said...”**

1. **Matthew 5:27**

Jesus refers to the Mosaic prohibition against adultery.

2. **Exodus 20:14**

Among the Ten Commandments is the simple statement, “*You shall not commit adultery*”.

B. **“But I Say To You...”**

1. **Matthew 5:28**

One need not carry out the act of adultery against another to be guilty of the same.

a. **Exodus 20:17**

The original list of commandments that forbade adultery also prohibited desire to do the same.

b. **James 1:14-16**

Desire usually produces results.

i. **2nd Samuel 11:2-4**

By admiring the beauty of Bathsheba, David was tempted, and adultery was committed.

ii. **Proverbs 6:25-29**

The most effective way to avoid the sin of adultery is to refrain from thinking about it!

iii. **2nd Peter 2:14**

Do you have “*eyes full of adultery*”?

iv. **Psalm 101:3; 119:37**

Resolve yourself to avert your eyes from wickedness!

c. **Romans 14:13; Luke 17:1-2**

Not only must men be careful to look away from the allure of the harlot, but women must be careful not to tempt them.

i. **1st Timothy 2:8-10**

The KJV renders “*moderation*” as “*shamefacedness*” which well describes the intent of the original Greek that speaks of shyness. Do short skirts, plunging necklines, and tight fitting clothes depict shyness? Let a woman’s adornment profess godliness.

ii. **1st Peter 3:1-4**

Ladies should let gentlemen be attracted to their gentle and quiet spirits, not their outward appearance.

2. **Matthew 5:29-30**

Sacrificing fleshly desires is worth the goal of heaven.

a. **Romans 8:13**

It’s a matter of life and death, spiritually.

b. **Luke 9:24-25**

Heaven – don’t miss it for the world!

III. **“LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE”**

A. **“It Has Been Said...”**

1. **Matthew 5:31**

Jesus refers to the Mosaic statute concerning divorce.

2. **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

Under the Old Law, divorce was regulated, but not prohibited.

3. **Malachi 2:16**

Even under that system of Law, however, it was hated by God.

a. **Proverbs 18:22**

Within the Old Covenant, marriage was regarded as a special blessing from God, so ending the relationship could not be good.

b. **Ecclesiastes 9:9**

Since togetherness is encouraged in marriage, dissolving a marriage would not be pleasing to God.

B. “But I Say To You...”

1. **Matthew 5:32**

a. Although divine disapproval of divorce was evident within the Law of Moses, it was not expressly condemned. Within the law of Christ, however, it is plainly forbidden.

b. Jesus emphasized that to divorce “*for any reason*” other than sexual immorality is wrong.

i. Therefore, spousal abuse or any other misconduct does not excuse one from Christ’s teaching about marriage and divorce.

ii. Furthermore, one cannot simply wait until fornication is committed in order to divorce a spouse for a number of other reasons. Fornication must be the reason.

2. **Matthew 19:3-9**

a. The Pharisees asked whether divorce was permissible under any circumstances (3).

i. The Lord’s reply took them past the Law of Moses, back to the beginning of creation, thousands of years prior to the establishment of the Law (4).

ii. Since God joins a couple in marriage (5), man has no authority to divide that union (6).

- b. The Pharisees inquired further, asking why divorce was permitted within the Law of Moses (7).
 - i. The Master's reply was to simply say that divorce was only tolerated under the Old Covenant (8a), it was never recommended.
 - ii. Again, He reminds them that the commandment delivered to Israel by Moses was not God's original plan for marriage (8b).
 - iii. In the New Covenant, divorce is not tolerated as it was in the Old. It is expressly forbidden (9).

3. **Luke 16:18**

- a. To divorce and remarry makes one guilty of adultery.
- b. To marry a divorcé(e), regardless of one's own marital status, is to commit adultery.

4. **Romans 7:2-3**

- a. Marriage is intended to last until death.
- b. She is an adulteress who marries while her husband yet survives.

i. **Mark 6:17-18**

This is why Herodias was still Philip's wife, even though she was married to Herod.

ii. **Acts 17:30**

So long as such a sin is lived in, repentance is necessary. No excuse, even ignorance, is accepted.

iii. **Ezra 9:1-4; 10:1-19, 44**

We have biblical precedence for repenting of sinful marriages.

5. **1st Corinthians 7:10-13**

- a. It is wrong for a marriage to end in divorce.

- b. In the event that a divorce does take place, the only godly options are:
 - i. To “*remain unmarried*” because she has no right to seek another spouse.
 - ii. Or, to “*be reconciled.*”
 - iii. But **not to remarry!**

IV. “YOU SHALL NOT SWEAR FALSELY”

A. “You Have Heard That It Was Said...”

1. **Matthew 5:33**

Jesus refers to the Mosaic statute concerning oaths.

2. **Leviticus 19:12**

To swear by the name of the Lord and fail to fulfill the vow profaned His name.

3. **Numbers 30:2**

One was required to keep his word.

4. **Deuteronomy 23:21-23**

Oaths were voluntary, not required. Therefore, those who swore were required to fulfill what they obligated themselves to.

5. **Proverbs 20:25**

Oaths were meant to be taken seriously.

B. “But I Say To You...”

1. **Matthew 5:34-37**

a. Instead of encouraging those who swear to keep their oaths, Jesus simply says not to swear at all (34).

b. Since we rarely have power over those things we invoke in oaths, it is futile to swear by them (34-36).

c. Why bother swearing when you can simply give a “yes” or “no”?

2. **Matthew 23:16-22**
People have the unfortunate habit of classifying certain oaths as greater than others, but honesty demands equal treatment of all commitments.
3. **Ephesians 4:25**
One's word should simply be good enough.
4. **James 5:12**
Honesty is the best policy.

V. **"AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH"**

A. **"You Have Heard That It Was Said..."**

1. **Matthew 5:38**
Jesus refers to the Mosaic statute of retaliation.
2. **Leviticus 24:19-20**
Under Moses' Law, retribution was to be dispensed in direct proportion to the sin perpetrated.

B. **"But I Tell You..."**

1. **Matthew 5:39-42**
Unlike the Law of Moses, Christ teaches us to accept wrongdoing perpetrated against us.
 - a. **1st Peter 2:19**
We will have God's commendation in so doing!
 - b. **1st Corinthians 6:7**
Such is simply expected.
2. **1st Thessalonians 5:15; 1st Peter 3:8-9**
Ours is to bless those who curse us and pursue good.
3. **Romans 12:17-21**
Vengeance is outside the scope of human prerogative. Should we engage in it, we would rob God of His authority in the matter.

VI. “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AND HATE YOUR ENEMY”

A. “You Have Heard That It Was Said...”

1. Matthew 5:43

Jesus refers to the treatment of the enemies of Israel under the Old Covenant.

2. Psalm 139:21-22

Harsh treatment was expected of those who opposed the things of God.

B. “But I Say To You...”

1. Matthew 5:44-48

Christ, however, instructs us to pray for our enemies.

2. Luke 23:34

This, He exemplified admirably, so that we are without excuse.

CONCLUSION

A. Matthew 7:28-29

In presenting this doctrine, Jesus proved His authority.

B. Matthew 28:18-20

You may submit to His authority by being baptized in His name.