

ULaity Missionary Baptist Church

Bible Study

January 8, 2022

Subject: Fulfilling God's Commandments Through the Ministry of Christ.

I. Fulfilling God's Commandments was one of the most important parts of Christ's Ministry during His time on earth.

A. Jesus came to fulfill God's Commandments.

Matthew 5:17 -18

¹⁷"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Jesus did not come to the world to replace the Commandments. He lived and taught the physical and spiritual principles that were needed to fulfill God's Laws.

B. God's Commandments were fulfilled through the righteousness of Christ.

Matthew 5:19-20

¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus understood that God's Commandments required people to achieve a level of righteousness beyond their physical abilities. God's Commandments required them to be perfect in all parts of life, physically and spiritually. God's Commandments required them to be perfect in their thoughts, attitudes and actions at all times.

Under the Law that came through Moses, God held them accountable for every thought, attitude, and action that they engage in.

II. Jesus clarifies some Old Testament thinking about God's Commandments and gives advice to His followers.

A. Jesus explains God's Law on "You shall not murder".

Matthew 5:21 – 22.

²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,'²² and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

²²But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother ^{without a cause} shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Anger is often the cause of murder. Scornful and spiteful words that come from pride, hatred, malicious slander, and the condemnation of others are like poison that kills secretly and slowly.

B. Jesus teaches reconciliation as a condition for acceptable worship.-

Matthew 5:23 – 24

²³Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Acceptable worship requires a loving relationship with one another. Worshiping God with an attitude of bad feelings toward other people is not pleasing to Him.

C. Jesus teaches His followers to resolve conflicts with others as soon as possible.

Matthew 5:25 – 26

²⁵Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

²⁶Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Where there is a disagreement, problem, or contentious matter, Jesus teaches His followers that it would be wise to settle it as early as possible.

D. Jesus explains God's Law on committing Adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28.

²⁷"You have heard that it was said [¶]to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' [¶]

²⁸But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jesus tells His followers that the thought is as guilty as the act. He refers to any man, married or single, with such thoughts about a woman. This command is for both men and women.

E. Jesus illustrates the seriousness of committing any sin.

Matthew 5:29-30.

²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Jesus did not intend for His followers to do this. He was showing that sin is a serious matter.

The eye nor the hand is the cause of sin. Sin comes from the heart and mind.

F. Jesus teaches His followers how to respond to the evil actions of others.

Matthew 5:38 -40.

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' [¶]

³⁹But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

As Christians, we are in a constant struggle against the evil in this world. We cannot overcome evil with evil. We must overcome evil with our own good actions.

As Christians we must have a generous attitude towards everyone.

G. Jesus teaches on God's perfect Love.

Matthew 5:43 -48

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor[¶] and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴¶But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

God loves all people. God sent Jesus to die for the sins of the just and the unjust. We who believe in Jesus become God's children. We show that we are God's children when we love our neighbors and as well as our enemies.

III. Jesus Christ and the New Testament Covenant – A Ministry of the Spirit.

A. The Bible tells us that the letter of the Law given to the people through Moses in the Old Testament killed because they were imperfect people trying to live by God's perfect Laws. Now we have the Spirit of the living God, who is Christ living in us, that gives us eternal life.

2 Corinthians 3:2 – 6.

²Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

³Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God.

⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

⁶Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

B. Because of the sacrificial crucifixion of Christ, God's Commandments moved from words written on tables of stones to the fleshy table of our Christian hearts.

1 John 3:18 – 23.

¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹And by this we [¶]know that we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before Him.

²⁰For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

²²And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

²³ And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.