

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
October 20th, 2019

Matthew 5:17-20

RECAP: Last week we concluded the Beatitudes and also the transition passage of v. 13-16. We discussed the general nature of salt and light, and how we are to preserve, and proclaim, the character and word of God to this world.

EXEGESIS:

- **v. 17;** We are clearly talking about the Mosaic Law of the OT, of Moses, in the first five books of the Bible, and the writings of the OT prophets, whom Christ also fulfills.
 - Herein lies our first core principle: **Jesus perfectly completes the Law.** Jesus Christ was always intended to be the total completion of the Law, in it's entirety.
 - Note the word "**fulfilled**." That word is paramount! That Greek word is "**πληρώω**," The Greek word, "to complete, fill up, or satisfy." **John 16:24, Phil. 2:2.**
 - So Christ must fulfill everything down to the tiniest detail. Pharisees accuse Him later of breaking Laws, but Christ points out, those are man-made traditions. (**Matt. 15:1-9**)
 - **Example A:** Dietary Laws. While interestingly enough, He Himself states, what you eat doesn't defile you. (**Matt 15:11**) But He still keeps all health and dietary Laws.
 - **Example B:** Promise & Punishment. The Israelites only earned punishments, but Christ brings righteousness, and the Kingdom is visualized here. **Leviticus 26:6.**
- **V. 18:** Every single dot and letter of the Law will be fulfilled. And it won't be fulfilled in eternity, it will be, as the word makes clear "**accomplished**." Completed. Finished.
- **V. 19:** When we get to this verse, people seem to lose all of that. Here, the standard interpretation in history, has been that here, Christ is affirming the eternal validity of the Law.
 - But if Christ is referring to the Mosaic Law here, and saying, we all need to keep and maintain the commandments of the Mosaic Law to the letter, that seems to create problems.
 - **Hebrews 8:6-7, Hebrews 8:13, Ephesians 2:14-15, Mark 7:19, Acts 15:28-29.**
 - So what is Christ saying here? **The only thing He can be referencing is His own commands, which are coming later, not the Mosaic Law.**
- **V. 20:** The Pharisees failed not in keeping the Law perfectly. They failed at going higher. Because what Christ wants here is not for us to keep the Law, but to go even higher. To go even deeper than that. To EXCEED the Law.

CONCLUSION:

- But hopefully, this teaches us two things:
 - **Conformity to laws and creeds isn't enough. We need heart change.**
 - **Christ is greater than the Law. we are under even greater standards.**