

## “The Jewish King’s Message (Part 2)”

### Matthew 5:17-48

So we will continue in the greatest sermon ever preached this morning....

We will begin to understand why, when we are in the Kingdom age there will be lasting peace and prosperity.

We will see when things are lived according to truth and righteousness; things can be harmonious and flourishing.

The Apostle Peter said this in....

**2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

**This Divine Nature or godly character is only possible through Jesus, as we will see this morning.**

**We will also see this world’s corruption is exposed and shown for what it is, in the light of the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus.**

**We will see Jesus does not do away with the Law, He actually amplifies it...**

**He lays out an even tougher task than the Law.**

**He gives us His Kingdom Laws, which if we live by is that Divine Nature Peter spoke about.**

**But if it is Divine, it also means it is beyond our own doing.**

Just to understand the context of our teaching this morning, I would like to remind you Jesus is teaching the believer here.

Remember Jesus is looking out at the multitudes and called His disciples in to teach them.

These teachings cannot be laid out as a template for humanity, for apart from the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power in the heart of a believer, these Kingdom Laws are impossible to live out.

**So let's continue our study.**

We will be in Matthew 5 verse 17

Jesus says in vs....17

### **Christ Fulfills the Law**

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

So Jesus continues on in His sermon, after saying we are the light of the world, and our good deeds are to be shown to this world to give glory to God.

And when we understand this He moves on now, to show us our relationship with the Law as subjects in His Kingdom.

Remember the first section Jesus showed us our relationship with Others.

Now He will show us our relationship with the Law.

Jesus said He is here to fulfill the Law.

He is the only One who lived a life perfect, according to every Law God had established.

He fulfilled the Law, and was the One the prophets spoke about.

A huge claim to the Jewish reader, and even us today.

Look at the next verse...

18 For 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.

The **jot** and the **tittle** were small punctuation marks in Hebrew writing.

It is as if Jesus says, "Not one dot of an "i" or not one cross of a "t" will pass away till all is fulfilled.

Guzik

And we can rest assured everything we have learned about in Prophecy will come to pass, and is coming to pass, and is fulfilled in Jesus.

Jesus came to fulfill all of scripture.

Also the Law of God is still God's standard today.

And it is God's expectation of us... we must live according to the law to receive eternal life.... Not one bit of it can be broken or missed.

And as we will see the Law is good.

Sometimes in our preaching we can seem to come off and make the Law sound kind of evil.

But it is a good Law, and if we lived accordingly to it, this world would be a better place.

But we all fail.... This is why we need the One who fulfilled it all, a perfect sacrifice, killed on a cross for our mistakes, and sins....

Look what Jesus says next, as He amplifies this Law.

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.

Jesus now cutting to the heart of the religious teachers of the day, saying if we teach God's law and do not live according to it we are least in heaven.

So if you see someone in heaven with a propeller hat, and everyone else has a crown you can guess this guy didn't do what he preached.

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

So the teacher must be held accountable to what he teaches, teaching is not something to take lightly.

Look what Jesus says next in Matthew...

20 For 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 continues to cut through the religious system.

The Scribes were the ones who knew the Law best, they studied the Law to the highest degree... No one knew God's Law like these guys.

And the Pharisees, no one lived up to the Law like these guys.

Their outward appearance and actions were flawless in man's eyes.

How could anyone surpass these men in righteousness?

Now what do you think Jesus is trying to get the listener to understand at this point?

The Law is too lofty for anyone, to impossible a task for any man. But it is what God requires non-the-less.

Jesus is trying to make the point, that He is the only way.

The Apostle Paul affirms this point in...

Gal 3:21-25 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would

have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

The Law is a tutor, it points us in the direction we should go, and it shows us who we really are.

I hear so many times “I am a good person” But up against God’s Law, we are all very messed up individuals.

There should be no room for any one of us to think we are any better than anyone else in here.

Remember earlier in this sermon, Jesus said blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom.

This is the state of mind that is healthy for a believer, to understand who we truly are in light of this Law, this will make us poor in spirit, and at the same time dependent on the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is now going to take God’s Law and clarify it. To raise the bar.

And all of us should feel a little uncomfortable but that is where Jesus wants us.

And in reality, His teaching will really keep us longing for this Kingdom of God.

Also Jesus through His clarification of the Law will expose this World's systems for what they are.

And He even uncovers the hidden crevasses of our own hearts.

### **Murder Begins in the Heart(Luke 12:57-59)**

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

Jesus clarifying the Law and what they have heard.

And Jesus will up the Anny in this New Kingdom.

22 But 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.

The council or Human court Jesus is speaking of here, is most likely the Sanhedrin... The religious court of the day.

Jesus continues....

But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Jesus says if you are angry enough to call someone a fool, you don't need to worry about human judgment, but more severely Godly Judgment.

This first part really exposes the heart of man, and even exposes Satan's work in our society.

This new law goes beyond the act of clubbing someone to death!

Jesus says when we look at someone with disdain, you know “He is worthless, he is a Fool!” we will be in danger of hell fire!

This is like calling someone a Punk in our culture, it truly is offensive, and comes from the depths of a person’s heart and out of his mouth.

It exposes, a haughty spirit and an I am better than you kind of attitude...

These emotions are the roots of murder, and if you think about it, the root of our wars, and arguments.

Think about the agenda of this world, it masquerades a heart of peace, but we see against the backdrop of our King’s Laws, it is the most divisive devilish scheme.

I find when I watch the News; it begins to create a heart of disdain and for those people who are not the same as us, as they portray.

We see in our worldly system republicans looking down on democrats, democrats blaming republicans.

And our system demands you to think the other side a fool.

We even divide race; when a young black man is killed, one side rises up and draws a line in the sand and causes a schism in society.

When a white child is murdered one side rises up and blames the color of the murderer’s skin, and we see a satanic plot of separation take place.

And you can see clearly both sides of the argument causing division in humanity, challenging you to pick a team, and spew contempt, and cry “Raca”, to those who disagree.

You see the culture cries they want peace but the message is undercoated with an agenda of hate and we see it demands you choose a side of each argument it produces.

So if you are not careful you can get sucked into the demonic plot of this world, and you can easily forgot the Kingdom Laws we the church are governed by.

We see divisions in every aspect of our lives, and our hearts are rebuked by this Law of The Kingdom of God.

Don't fall prey to Satan's program of holding yourself higher, looking down on others, Jesus said this is the seedbed for murder.

It allows us to look at another group and justify the murder in our hearts.

Sometimes we forget this about God... But it seems we are shown mercy only the amount we are merciful.

If we are unforgiving, always angry with people, how can we expect God to forgive us?

Our relationships down here, kind of show our understanding of God.

We are wretched people, every one of us.... When we fail to see this, we tend to live according to man's

principles, and not by the grace we are freely given from God.

It is eye opening to see ourselves the way God sees us, and when we do see that wretched person we truly are, then when people make us angry, we will tend to show mercy and grace, we will extend love to those this world would call the other side.

This is the way the subjects of this new Kingdom should live.

There are no race barriers, there are no ethnic barriers, and there are no rich and poor citizens of this Kingdom.

We all are on an equal plain, brothers and sisters, saved by that same wonderful grace.

And if this New Law has exposed some wickedness in your heart, Jesus gives some practical ways to overcome next...

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

You see we come week after week, and offer a gift of praise to Jesus.

But some come here with that heart of disdain for someone, they even hate in their hearts.

Christ would rather us reconcile with our brother than offer a heart of praise on the altar.

You see He can see directly into our hearts.

We can fool everyone in this room with a show, we can stand lift our hands, and just look so spiritual.

But God sees through the show!

We must first reconcile with our brother. To give any kind of pure worship.

I notice a theme throughout Jesus' teachings; it seems our relationship with others directly reflects our relationship with God.

When we carry with us the burdens of hate, and division with our brothers and sister it directly effects our connection with God.

Something interesting here, he does not say if you have a problem with a brother to reconcile with that brother.

It's the reverse, if your brother has something against you.

Jesus doesn't even consider here you being wronged.

He is showing us to evaluate ourselves, to humble ourselves, to take the low road, to ask for forgiveness, without even putting forth our own grievances.

I have personally found multiple times the healing power of coming humbly before a brother, not defensive, not justifying myself, and just simply asking for forgiveness.

There is a supernatural power in being obedient to Jesus' teachings. And a healing that just is out of this world.

Look what Jesus says next...

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

In the culture that Jesus is speaking from within, if you wanted to bring someone to court, you had to get them and arrest them yourself, to bring them to court.

So Jesus is saying if someone has something against you, it is better to handle it, man to man, rather than have an outside authority handle it for you.

The judge might side with your adversary, and you will end up in prison with no way to pay the last penny.

Always reconcile, and as Jesus is about to show us, the reconciling usually means we don't get to worry about our rights or how we were offended; we always take the humble position.

Jesus goes on to say...

### **Adultery in the Heart**

27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Again Jesus confronts the heart, not just the outward. He reminds us God sees the parts of our minds that no one else sees.

The man pleasing Pharisees may have had the outside taken care of... But they really disregarded what God saw.

And I think it is safe to say according to the Kingdom's Law, this room here is full of adulterers... We all need Jesus in a bad way.

Jesus goes on to say...

29 If 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. 30 And 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 now shows us that we need to take sin serious.

These sins are going to send us to hell, unless they are taken care of.

What are some ways to stop having bad thoughts?

There really is only One Way, and that is to deepen our walk with Jesus... To constantly be asking for help... Totally dependent on Him.

We can come up with strategies all day long... But our efforts will usually come up short.

There was even St. Benedict of Nursia (480-547 CE) and his followers, who would throw themselves into thornbushes, to try and stop their immoral thoughts.

Even Monks, kept away from society, struggled with their fleshly desires and lusts...

We all struggle with this sinful man till the day we are removed from this body of corruption.

So until then, we depend on Jesus for strength.

When we mess up, we can make up new strategies like throwing ourselves into thorn bushes, or we come back to that wonderful Savior Jesus...

And we can ask Him to cleanse us, forgive us... It is only by Him not our systems.

But we see something in Jesus' teaching here.

There is in fact something required of us, we see it throughout scripture, our faith in Him should in fact cause an action of moving away from the sin.

I don't think self-mutilation or thorn bush punishment is the point of what Jesus is making here...

I had a great illustration planned out, if you struggle with this sin Jesus is talking about, you find yourself lusting on your computer or smartphone I thought I could show you some practical ways of dealing with it. (Bashing a computer, but it would leave such a mess to clean after service)

But; You see it is better for you to have the financial loss of your new smartphone, than to keep it and find yourself separated from God because you allowed lust to consume your heart.

I find it fascinating, how we can justify these things that cause our defeat.

A young homeschooled man, had loving parents who monitored his use of the home computer, but he confessed to me, that he was able to access pornography on his phone his parents purchased for him.

And after weeks of him doing well, then falling back into this trap that he carried around in his pocket, I recited these verses to him.

I said “young man, it would be better for you to throw that iPhone in the trash, than to spend your eternity in hell, cut off your phone, it defeats you every time.”

His countenance changed into distress and defense, “Oh, never, I could never give this phone up, it is my life.”

For which I replied “no it is your god.”

Like Sméagol from Lord of the Rings, it was his precious.

But how many of us have our own precious. That even though it is sucking the life out of us, and separating us from a loving God, we still will not give it up.

Jesus says we need to be radical with sin.

And you can come to that place of just letting go of your little “g” god, Jesus will meet you in your faith.

When the Lord took my Meth addiction, He also took the cigarettes, but the alcohol, now that was the test.

When you are an alcoholic, or any addict really, your addiction kind of takes on a personality.

It is strange to say the least.

But Bud Light, was my lover through the hard times and the good times, everywhere I went, every celebration, every outing, through the tough times, and depression, I included my best friend Bud Light.

Through the lonely nights, even when all my friends were around, I had my pal with me.

Now those of you who come from addiction can relate.

You never can imagine your life without this romance with your personified addiction.

Even though Jesus had replaced my two other friends Meth and cigarettes, this god of alcohol and I had a bond that went deep, and had much more history, could Jesus even replace this?

Well I remember coming home from work, after Jesus had begun to work in my heart and mind.

And I had a case in the fridge, it would be nothing for me to drink 18to25+ beers in one night.

But I remember clearly opening the refrigerator, seeing my old friend, grabbing him, opening the bottle like I

always had, hearing that crisp pop, and the frosty foam rising to the top, and I took my first drink of the night.

But something alarming happened, it was as if my taste buds had radically changed, the Holy Spirit even sanctifying these sensors on my tongue.

I remember, that still small voice telling me, yes, even this I will help you overcome.

I had a choice in that moment, I knew, if I took another drink, I could suppress that voice, and I imagine, I would have eventually ended up right back in the bondage of my past.

Or I could heed that voice, and I did something very painful at first, I poured out my bottle in the sink, and as crazy as it sounds I mourned inside as I said goodbye to my old friend.

I cut it off right there, our relationship was over, and I bid farewell.

And you know what as I said goodbye, Jesus grabbed ahold of me, He met me in my faith, and each bottle got easier and easier.

Instead of sorrow for my old friend, the bottle, I began to feel liberated.

Jesus was there to help.

I could lie and say from that point it was easy, but I had to over and over again to commit to cutting it off, when temptation came, my old friend pleading with me to come back.

I had to choose to remove it from my life.

And over time, my old friend, well his voice got faint, weaker, as that Voice of Truth rang louder and louder.

And the sorrow and headaches my friend gave me, Jesus replaced with Joy and Laughter.

You see our prayers are too often God deliver me from this sin, but we are not willing to put our faith into the prayer we are praying.

It is just lip service.

He says to remove it; He will meet you in your faith.

And I am not telling you this as a polished preacher, but as a man who has been there.

I know, without a doubt, my God is real, and if you are willing He has the power to free you from whatever you are dealing with this morning.

You just need to step out in faith!

So whatever the Lord is telling you to turn from this morning, cut it off, stop immediately, and your faith will be met with the strength to overcome.

You just have to believe.

Let's move on...

**Marriage Is Sacred and Binding(Matt 19:9; Mark 10:11,12; Luke 16:18)**

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any

reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

Jesus still confronting the Jewish teachers here...

You see....There were two camps here in Jesus' day; The Pharisees followed one of two teachers.

The first Shammai, he was very conservative, saying divorce can only be granted do to sexual immorality or adultery.

The second was Hillel, and he believed it was much broader then sexual immorality.

He believed if a woman cooked your egg wrong by putting too much pepper on it, you could divorce.

Or if a more virtuous woman passed by you can divorce on the grounds of unclean by comparison.

Craziness, but that is kind of where our culture is now.

We have down played the sanctity of marriage, we think if the person is unhappy they should divorce, but it is more than just an agreement, it is something divine, and sanctified by God.

Jesus clarifies by saying, only by sexual immorality.

And it is a tough subject. But God definitely prefers reconciliation even in this sin.

But Jesus says if there is divorce on any other grounds than sexual immorality,

Than a new marriage **Causes her to commit adultery**: An illegitimate divorce gives place to **adultery** because God doesn't recognize the divorce, and sees a new relationship as bigamous.

It is possible for a person to have a divorce that is recognized by the *state*, but not by *God*. If that person goes on to marry someone else, God considers that relationship **adultery** because He sees them as still married. Guzik

But we will discuss marriage a little more in depth later on in Matthew 19.

Let us move on...

### Jesus Forbids Oaths

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Back then someone's word had weight. Now a day someone's word is as tangible as air.

You used to be able to shake a hand and do business. But now they have so many forms and contracts to sign it is crazy.

I have been told before that the big firms have lawyers who are hired and are just there to figure loop holes in contracts to get out of paying contractors.

Man's word is nothing today.

But Jesus says for us as subjects in His Kingdom, we say no more than yes or no. Because anything more than that is not trustworthy.

If we say yes, but with exceptions... it is not a true yes.

So hopefully our word should be as good as a contract to those around us, we are to be trustworthy.

~~There is what is known as the kiss of death in the ministry.~~

~~I used to laugh at it, but now I know all too well how true it is.~~

~~When a person tells me, "Well pastor this is it, we are finally home, your teaching is wonderful, the family here is wonderful, we have finally found our home church."~~

~~Well I know that now to be the kiss of death, and I can pretty much assume, something will happen and that person will be gone.~~

~~I even try to prepare people for disappointment, "Oh you know I will let you down in the future, please understand this."~~

~~"Oh we do; and no matter what, we are not going anywhere."~~

~~But because our word today has lost its strength, people go back on that definitive word most of the time.~~

~~It is safer to just be honest up front.~~

~~Pastor we love the church, but you ticked me off by what you said.~~

~~Now that is a person I can deal with, because you know where they stand.~~

~~And more than likely if they can be honest when it is hard, than they are usually a person whose yes is yes, and no is no.~~

This is how people will know you are a part of this New Kingdom; your word will mean something.

We have to have strength behind who we are, be dependable, when we say we are going to do something, finish it out, no matter how difficult it is.

You will stand out in your work place, you will be set apart from your peers.

Let your yes be yes...

Jesus goes on to say...

### **Go the Second Mile(Luke 6:29-31)**

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Jesus takes the Law one step further. Turn the Other cheek.

There is power in doing the right thing. Gandhi took this principle to heart, and the British left India. Martin Luther King practiced this, and won rights for those who had none.

When we are obedient to Jesus, we see there is power in what He asks of us.

We control the situation when we don't react.

Don't you see Jesus takes us completely out of the situation here? We put ALL others before ourselves, and we turn the other cheek.

Some might say, after I turn my cheek, then I will let them have it.

But most likely if you can stay calm enough to obey Jesus in this situation, it usually will not go passed the one strike.

There is power in obedience to God's Word.

Next we read...

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

The Jews were under Roman law... And if a Roman soldier asked you to carry his things. You were required to do it.

Jesus says go beyond what is required.

If someone asks of you your time, give it doubly.

I remember dealing with this scripture; you know having it on my heart and mind.

Than opportunity came to live it out.

I was working in Parker, AZ, about 40 minutes from Havasu where I lived at the time.

I was halfway home after a hot day, and I saw a couple on the side of the road with a flat.

I saw them and thought well they are going the other way back to where I came from.

But I really felt the tug of the Lord to turn around and pick them up, I fought it as long as I could, and turned around.

I kind of always have the same conversation with the Lord. They won't need a ride, this is so stupid, you watch Jesus; they will have it figured out.

So I get to them and ask kind of hoping they will say "no", and I say "Do you need a ride?" "Oh that would be so great, we have a friend in Parker, who has a tire shop, they can help us if you get us there?"

Oh man, didn't they see I had to turn around? They have to know I was going the other way; they want me to take them all the way back to Parker?!

Then this scripture, **41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.**

"Oh man, Okay Lord I will obey."

You know what happen on that trip to Parker, the Lord showed up, you remember when Jesus said last time

**Matt 5:16**

**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

You see my heart was ugly, but my obedience to scripture was met by a great move of God, those

people and I just talked about Jesus, they were so ministered to by Jesus, and the kindness of one of His subjects in His Kingdom, they just glorified God by the time we got to their destination.

I never saw them again, but I sure learned a lesson, in obeying Jesus' Words.

This began a wonderful ministry for me and Jess we called it....Taxi cab for Jesus.

It is hot in Havasu, so we would see someone walking, we would offer them a lift, and nothing was more than 10 minutes away usually.

But they would get in, and me and Jess would just smirk, because they were trapped, and me and Jess would turn every conversation straight to Jesus.

It was kind of game for us to see who can turn the conversation to Jesus first.

A lot of people were ministered too, but many wanted out way before their destination, these crazy Christians had them trapped. Fun times though, before we had kids.

We had guys just out of prison in our car, sometimes the Lord would just grab a hold of the situation and I would I have big ol' tatted up convict crying on my shoulder.

The Holy Spirit would just meet us in our obedience.

You would be surprised what going the extra mile with someone does for them.

Look what Jesus says next....

42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

This is tough, because we love our stuff.

But if we are just obedient to what Christ asks of us, we find He gives us the strength to do it... and let go.

~~Now I told this story before.... But it was a perfect lesson for us, in regards to this verse.~~

~~Oven Story~~

~~It was my Oven, It just was not fair! "Lord give me a scripture that justifies me fighting for this oven!"~~

~~And pops into my heart Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.~~

~~DOE! Okay man you can have it. We can just get one of those camping stoves and cook on that for a while.~~

~~Then the day everything is final, Steve Diaz calls me, hey man heard you guys got the house, I don't know if you need one, but I have two new ovens you can have one if you like.~~

~~I was like "Oh Lord, you are so good," and there is so much joy in obeying your Word, it is sooo hard, but so worth it!~~

Well now it is about to get tougher for us...

**Love Your Enemies(Luke 6:27,28,32-36)**

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, 45 that 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. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

We see again how this New Law cuts through the dividing lines we have drawn up.

We group ourselves into classes, and cliques of all sorts.

We make enemies of the other side, and everything in our culture is pushing this mindset on us.

It is so easy to buy into it the mindset of ours and theirs, us and them, but not so here in our Kingdom.

You know what one of the most wonderful things that will happen in our kingdom?

As soon as Christ takes His place a King of King's and Lord of Lord's. There will be no more division, only peace.

No more corruption, no more greed, there is enough resources on this earth for every man to live in peace.

And no longer will man delegate who gets what. No more will man bottle up water and sell it for a profit.

No more will an apple be picked and sold for the highest possible price.

And all will share in everything. There will be love for everyone, complete sharing and peace.

There will be no place for enemies, where once someone was hated because they were different, there will be unity in mankind.

No more borders, no more weapons of war, no more famine, no more struggle.

This is how the Kingdom that we pray comes will be ruled.

And we are too be a picture of this Kingdom now.

A Kingdom minded church should have all colors, all kinds of backgrounds, all kinds of shapes and sizes.

It should be full of nobodies and somebodies, upper Class and no class.

Sinners and Saints.

A picture of the Kingdom is variety, which seems to be God's design.

A bunch mixed up messes that Christ has redeemed.

Look how Jesus finishes this section...

**48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

Again perfection is an impossibility.

If we come to God on our own, thinking we lived perfectly, we are in trouble.

But Jesus provided a way to live with the Father; He made a way to even live according to this Law.

Remember this Law is not bad. It is a very good thing. It is good not to commit adultery; it is good to do good to our neighbor. The Law is good, but we fight so hard to obey.

But when we give our life to Jesus, we find He does it through us.

But it can only happen when we are broken, and completely surrendered to Him.

We can never forget it is Him in us.... We like to hear "You are such a good person" ... But we can never start believing that.... Our righteousness is only from the Only Righteous One, Jesus Christ.

And when we understand this, Love for our fellow man is attainable. There is hope when we see ourselves for who we are.

Because we find our hope in the One who fulfilled the Law and Prophets.

You see these Kingdom Laws that Jesus gives us here are the only hope for humanity.

I pray as we approach this new week, our neighbors, family members, co-workers, and even those who would be considered our enemies would see that Divine Nature shining bright in us.

Amen?!