

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 2: Christ and the Scripture (Matt. 5:17-20)

INTRO: Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah-King. The SOM (Chs. 5-7) serves as His “manifesto” (call to character and conduct radically different from the world). The King’s laws for life.

CHAPTER 5 - HIS MANIFESTO ON “TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS”

vv. 1-16 *Defining* True Righteousness – The Beatitudes describes the life required in ORDER . . . Now,

vv. 17-20 *Receiving* True Righteousness as described in the Scriptures. What did Jesus believe about the Scripture? He believed in the:

I. THE *PREMINENCE* OF SCRIPTURE (v. 17)

- A. Authored by God (2 Tim. 3:16) – Every Word is true (Pro. 30:5).
- B. Affirmed by the Prophets – The Prophets served as God’s mouthpiece (Jer. 1:9; Heb. 1:1). They issued commandments, warnings, predictions, etc.
- C. Accomplished by Christ – Jesus came to fulfill not abolish the Law.
 - 1. He believed in OT was God-given Scripture – See my notes . . .)
 - 2. He perfectly fulfilled all the Law (Lk. 24:27, 44). How? Birth (Gal. 4:9), sinless life; teaching, death and resurrection (Gal. 3:13)

MacArthur writes . . .

II. THE *PERMANENCE* OF SCRIPTURE (v. 18)

- A. Speaks with authority (“For truly, I say...”) – I’m saying to you absolutely, without qualification and with the fullest authority.
- B. Say What? The Word of God is permanent, enduring forever “until heaven . . . will pass from the Law.” God’s Word will outlast this universe (2 Pet. 3:7, 10). Jesus equaled His words to God’s (Matt. 24:35). This Word is timeless. It will outlast everyone who questions its accuracy, relevancy, and authority – and “not an iota, not a dot” will pass. The smallest letter and the smallest marking on that letter will endure. In His ministry Jesus referred to the OT at least 78 times, always as authoritative truth (Jn. 10:35).

III. THE *PERTINENCE* OF SCRIPTURE (v. 19)

- A. World says, “We are free to do our own thing.” True, but not without consequences if contrary to Scripture. God’s Word is pertinent to all who believe and obey it, especially. Pertinent because of:

- B. Its own character – Scripture is not a collection of man’s religious ideas but God’s revelation of divine truth. Its teachings are not speculations but truths.
- C. The Consequences of Disobeying or Obeying it. Salvation will not be lost, but blessing, reward, joy, usefulness, can be. Positively, when we obey it, “we will be called great in the KOH.” Greatness in God’s kingdom is not decided by our giftedness, popularity, success, wealth, etc., but by our view of God and obedience to the Scripture!

IV. THE *PURPOSE* OF SCRIPTURE (v. 20)

We come to the heart of this passage and perhaps to the key verse in the entire SOM (even Matthew & NT). It may summarize the message of Christ. Read v. 20 . . .

- A. The Artificial Righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees was (Matt. 23):
 - 1. External – what you do (ceremonies, rituals, feasts)
 - 2. Partial – selective, cafeteria-style
 - 3. Redefined – added commands (613!)
 - 4. Self-centered – focus on self “look at me” (Matt. 6:1, 2, 5, 7, 16)
- B. The True Righteousness God Requires is Transformational
 - 1. Internal first- always about the heart attitude and intent (Deut. 10:12-13)
 - 2. Must “exceed” that of the most righteous
 - 3. Must be “perfect” (v. 48). Conclusion? I can’t! Only possible with God (Matt. 19:25-26). Now under Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2; Matt. 22:37-39). Live for Him (2 Cor. 5:15; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 8:3-4).
- C. The True Righteousness God Gives is based on the finished work of Christ. God imparts His perfect righteousness to those who believe in Him (1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9). It’s about divine accomplishment not human achievement. All of grace (Eph. 2:8-9). We must come broken over our sin and inability to save ourselves (Matt. 5:3-4). We can never earn or deserve it.
- D. “What should we do with this perfect and authoritative Word Jesus believed in and we now hold?”
 - 1. *Submit* to it is as ultimate authority
 - 2. *Read* and study it faithfully
 - 3. *Obey* it as best as you can
 - 4. *Share* it with others – can’t earn or be good enough

CONC: Result? 2 Tim. 3:17 . . .

Read SOM at least 3xs this week.