

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads from the bottom center towards the middle ground. The terrain is sandy and sparsely covered with small, dry bushes. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

The Gospel of Matthew

WHY DID THE KING COME BUT NOT THE KINGDOM?

Outline to the book of Matthew:

I. The King Has Come 1:1-13:53

1. *The Incarnation and the preparation of the King 1:1 – 4:11*
2. *The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29*
3. *The Manifestation of the King 8:1 – 11:1*
4. *The Opposition to the King 11:2 – 13:53*

II. The Kingdom Has Not 13:54-28:20

5. *The Reaction of the King, 13:54 – 19:2*
6. *The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 – 25:46*
7. *The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of the King, 26:1 – 28:20*

***Subpoints follow Stanley Toussaint's seven main divisions outlined in his commentary.

I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1 – 13:53

The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 – 7:29

(Matthew 5:43-48)

“The Law of LOVE”

Jesus' discourse on the Mosaic Law:

Three Laws are explained by Jesus –

1. Murder 5:21-26

2. Adultery 5:27-30

- Divorce is an addendum to the law on Adultery 5:31-32

3. Oaths 5:33-37

Two elaborations:

1. Personal retribution 5:38-42 (cf. Ex. 21:24)

2. Love your neighbor 5:43-48 (summary of the law)

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 43
2. The observation of the law v. 44
3. The goal of the law v. 45
4. The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

1- The declaration of the law v. 43

A. Observations:

- What the Israelites understood
 1. “Again you have heard that it was said”
 - Note that “to those of old” is absent.
 2. “You shall love your neighbor”
 - Cf. Lev. 19:18
 3. “and hate your enemy.”
 - Rabbinic teaching.

1- The declaration of the law v. 43

B. Summary/Application:

- The Israelites understood the law of loving their neighbor.
- Rabbinic teachings added “and hate your enemy.”
- The righteousness of the law was therefore neglected.
- Jesus will explain the righteousness of the law.
- Perhaps we also misunderstand loving and hating?

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 43
2. The observation of the law v. 44
3. The goal of the law v. 45
4. The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

2- The observation of the law v. 44

A. Observations:

- Jesus corrects their misunderstanding v. 44a
 - “But I say to you”
- 2 statements v. 44b
 - 1) “love your enemies,”
 - 2) “bless those who curse you,”
 - 3) “do good to those who hate you,”
 - 4) “and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”

2- The observation of the law v. 44

B. Summary/Application:

- Jesus contradicted rabbinic teaching of hatred for one's enemy.
- Jesus escalates His point by saying not only are you to not hate your enemy but bless them.
- Love them.
- Bless them.
- Do good to them.
- Pray for them.

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 43
2. The observation of the law v. 44
3. The goal of the law v. 45
4. The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

3- The goal of the law v. 45

A. Observations:

- The goal of the law
 - “that” (lit. “with the purpose that”)
- The substance of the goal
 - “you may be sons of your Father in heaven”
- The pattern of the Father
 - “for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,”
 - “and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

3- The goal of the law v. 45

B. Summary/Application:

- The true intention of the law of “love thy neighbor” is to be like God the Father.
- God gives common grace to all... even the evil.
- What about Romans 5:8?
- God’s love for us... and for the lost, should change how we see our enemies.

Outline:

1. The declaration of the law v. 43
2. The observation of the law v. 44
3. The goal of the law v. 45
4. The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

4- The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

A. Observations:

- The returns on love v. 46a
 - “if you love those who love you, what reward have you?”
- The tax collector example v. 46b
 - Do not the tax collectors do the same? (why are they the enemy?)
- The commonality of decency v. 47a
 - “if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others?”

4- The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

A. Observations:

- The return on love v. 46a
- The tax collector example v. 46b
- The commonality of decency v. 47a
- The 2nd Tax collector example v. 47b
 - “Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”
- The conclusion v. 48
 - 1) “Therefore you shall be perfect,”
 - 2) “just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
 - “perfect” = being fully developed in a moral sense. BDAG

4- The rationale behind the observation vv. 46-48

B. Summary/Application:

- Loving someone who loves you doesn't fulfill the righteousness of this law.
- Greeting your friends doesn't fulfill the righteousness of this law.
- These are common things that all people do.
- Rather we are to be fully developed morally to love not only our friends, but also our enemies.
- We are to be **DIFFERENT** than the world not like them.

Summary/Application:

- If LOVE for all summarizes the law... Whether we love or not will determine our spiritual maturity.
- What about being angry?
- What about lusting?
- What about in marriage?
- What about in our speech?
- What about in how we handle being wronged?

- Does the love of God permeate our entire life in every area?
- IF not... we must keep growing.



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