

Jesus, the law and my problems in the office

Matthew 5:17-26

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

1 Our problems

2 Pharisees response

3 The Sermon on the Mount

4 Jesus and the Law:

- a Jesus fulfils the law and the prophets Matthew 5:17-18
 - Civil, Ceremonial or Moral
 - Jesus obeyed the law
 - The law and the prophets pointed to Jesus
- b Jesus teaches his followers to obey his authoritative interpretation of the law Matthew 5:19-20, Ezekiel 36:17-29

5 Application to us

- a Anger Matthew 5:21-22
- b Your brother's anger Matthew 5:23-24
- c Your enemy's anger Matthew 5:25-26

6 Heart surgery required