

Update on Mariah Yanes. She has had some set backs but is stable, now. Drs performed a "Heart Rejection" test; results coming soon to find out how the body is receiving the new heart. The Yanes family is encouraged. Mariah, according to dad, is her old self, considering all things. Praise the LORD!

GOODNEWS LETTER
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ON THE ONE HAND... ON THE OTHER HAND

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery:' But, I say unto you..." (Matthew 5:27, 28).

On the one hand, there is a physical application of truth in God's Law but, **on the other hand**, in light of the teachings of Jesus, the Law controlled man's physical appetites, only partially.

And, because actual sin comes from within; due to the separation between man and God, there must be Spiritual truth within the heart if man is freed from sin. Jesus confirms: **"It is the Spirit that quickeneth...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life," John 6:63.**

On the one hand, the LORD demands righteousness; but, **on the other hand**, it must exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees: **"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the Kingdom of Heaven," Mt. 5:20.**

We have to understand that Jesus is NOT looking at His teaching differently from what the Law of God demanded. He isn't speaking about two different methods of acceptable service, either.

What Jesus demands has always been - you might say: "Etched in Stone;" for, truth is the same in both Testaments. It's just that man is unable to fulfill God's Law as long as he is in the flesh; that is, until Jesus took on flesh.

Thus, He says: **"Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill," Matthew 5:17.**

Therefore, if we apply Matthew 5:17 within the **"on the one hand"** kind of thinking, we might hear Jesus say: *On the one hand, the Law was restrictive on man's part due to his sin in the flesh but, on the other hand, I have come to set man free; in order that man may serve God in spirit and truth.*

Our freedom came through the act of Jesus Christ dying on the cross in our place.

And, so the Beautitudes of: "poor in spirit," "meek," "merciful" and "peacemakers" are acts of freedom; ones that can only be understood within the **New Man** that Jesus became in the flesh. Further, the new life became operative within all believers, after His resurrection.

By believers, we mean, **first** of all, those who trust in the declarative word that Jesus is the Savior of all who believe. This word is activated by the Holy Spirit and He unleashes New Covenant Laws of salvation (justification, reconciliation and propitiation) for all who believe the message when they are convicted of sin and righteousness.

Then **secondly**, believers are the saved who follow Jesus and His teachings within His body, the church. Clearly, the Bible shows that there are saved believers and, believers that shall inherit the Kingdom (rule over).

The latter "believers" walk in spirit and truth and have an ongoing faith. These believers realize that they became a new man in Christ Jesus, having a responsibility of becoming meek to God's word and, at the same time, merciful to those who are not, yet. These believers follow on, **doing spiritual matters and teaching spiritual lessons of truth.**

Overcoming the flesh and the world was God's intentions from the beginning. We learn this truth from the "**Before the foundation of the world**" verses (Jn 17:24; Eph. 1:4; Heb. 4:3; I Pe. 1:20; Rev. 13:8).

Thus, God gave the Law; in order that man could be an overcomer. The Law, however, served for the time appointed only. Rather than keep man within a restrictive lifestyle - an outward, not inward obedience, God's final plan was to re-create man within His Son, Jesus Christ. Hence, the New Birth.

This is one reason Jesus said, "**God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth**" (Jn 4:24). Jesus taught a spirit of love - one that has to be motivated from within not without.

Before man could worship in spirit and control his actions, the flesh had to be removed. When this occurred, man's spirit was freed. It was then, that in the substitutionary act of Jesus, man receives inward power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit then, "**will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but what soever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come,**" John 16:13.

It is this ongoing power that produces the necessary **teachings** and **doings** that Jesus described throughout His ministry. We might even say: The words of Jesus are (so) spiritual, that those who **hear** and **do** are blessed beyond being saved from condemnation. And, we would be right! And, we would be in harmony with what Jesus said. "**...the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of heaven,**" Matthew 5:19.

Concerning the Law (both ceremonial & Ten Commandments), **on the one hand**, Jesus fulfilled it and "**took it out of the way**" (Col. 2:14). He saved all who believe, but... **on the other hand**, the church that Jesus started and Heads up,

was empowered to "Go" (Mt 28:19). However, they could "Go" only after the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost. The upper room had 120 people in it. Were any other people saved? Of course. And notice: On Pentecost, many were added to the church (Acts 2). They were added by baptism.

But, here we must see that there is a difference between being saved and "Going." The Bible shows those going as being within the proper and commissioned authority. Before they went, Jesus met with them and breathed on them and sent them. They went because Jesus sent.

The difference between the two mentioned doctrines can be seen in the 150 N. T. references about the Kingdom message that Jesus taught, over and over - some believers will inherit and some believers will not. The Kingdom message teaches that some are **doing** the **teaching** and **teaching** the **doing** of the new life; while, some are not. Serving Christ is walking within in the new life that Romans 6:4 describes.

Believers then, **"are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ...written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart," 2 Corinthians 3:3.**

Our conclusion is: On the one hand, God's Law is eternal. It had to be fulfilled; which, Jesus lived out perfectly during His lifetime...**on the other hand,** Jesus died for the transgressions of those under the first testament (Heb 9:15), becoming the Mediator of the New Testament. We came alive through Jesus and, we presently live through Jesus.

And, here's why: Since, the first advent of Jesus, all that believe **"are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses"** (Acts 13:39).

The Law was good and righteous but it only brought death; if broken, man was stoned to death. Jesus lived the Law and brought life; as well as, the promises to man. This is something the Law failed to accomplish.

And, don't we love Hebrews 9:27? **"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."**

Clearly, man couldn't do God's Law by fleshly works. Man is not righteous, fleshly speaking. Thus, the **Second Person** of the Godhead entered the flesh and overcame all sin. Now, the new life in Jesus is a finished one, defeating sin for all who believe.

FINALLY, when we consider the Law and its fulfillment; - even, if we think of the Law of Moses as being only within the framework of the Ten Commandments, we find that the fourth commandment has been fulfilled, as well. The seventh day, the day of rest, is now an every day reality for all believers who rest in Jesus (See, Heb. 3 & 4).

Then, when Jesus returns, man - in the flesh this time - shall rest within the love of God on the seventh day, as the age of the Millennium and its Kingdom control unfolds upon God's created earth. Amen and Amen! In Christ, we have everything!