

SOTM 12 – The Savior On The Inside

Read Mat 5:21-48

We are going to look at this long passage in "Macro-Mode" today instead of teaching it in detail. It is more important that we understand the fundamental change that was coming as people entered the kingdom of God by being born again. Remember our last lesson ... Jesus did not come to abolish the Law. He came to fulfill the Law. He did that by living a life that perfectly kept it, and then by offering Himself as the only qualified Lamb to be the final sacrifice of the Law.

The Law of Moses had to do with the external acts, not the motives of the heart. You were only guilty of murder if you actually committed the act of murder. You were only guilty of adultery if you committed the act of adultery. But Jesus is raising the bar even higher. In the kingdom of God, you are guilty of those things if you commit those them in your heart ... even if you never commit the acts themselves physically.

From the natural viewpoint, Jesus was making the IMPOSSIBLE even MORE IMPOSSIBLE. No man (except Jesus Himself) had ever been able to keep the Law of Moses. It was impossible because man is born a sinner by nature. That's why the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. The Law condemns all men as sinners, guilty of death. It causes man to cry out for a Savior ... like the man in Romans chapter seven who cried out, "Oh wretched man that I am ... who shall save me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord."

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus is saying that those who are in the kingdom of God will live a higher standard of righteousness than those who lived under the law of Moses!

They must have thought ... IMPOSSIBLE! And God says ... PRECISELY ... you will need a SAVIOR ON THE INSIDE OF YOU IN ORDER TO LIVE THIS WAY!

Fruitless Fig Trees

Jesus says there are only two types of trees ... good and bad

Luke 6:43-45 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (44) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. (45) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the

heart his mouth speaketh.

Adam & Eve covered with fig leaves

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Looking for fruit on the fig tree (Jesus ... three years)

Luke 13:6-9 He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. (7) Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? (8) And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: (9) And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree

Mark 11:12-14 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: (13) And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not *yet*. (14) And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard *it*.

What did Jesus do next? He cleanses the temple

Mark 11:15-17 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; (16) And would not suffer that any man should carry *any* vessel through the temple. (17) And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Look at Matthew's account. He replaces what is inside the temple ... with HIMSELF!

Matthew 21:12-14 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, (13) And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. (14) And the blind and the lame came to **him in the temple**; and he healed them.

The temple that bore no fruit ... now bore abundant fruit ... because Jesus was ALIVE IN THE TEMPLE! The fig tree always represented God's people. Religion

only covered man with leaves, but produced no fruit. When we are born again, we become a new tree with a new LIFE SOURCE on the inside.

Isaiah prophesied about this day; Trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, **that he might be glorified.**

We are a new species of tree, having the life of Christ as the sap running through us.

John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. (2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

We bear much fruit ... that the Father be glorified.

(8) **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

Again, that the Father may be glorified in the Son:

John 14:12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (13) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, **that the Father may be glorified** in the Son. (14) **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

Jesus is just as serious about us bearing answered prayer fruit as He was about us no longer walking in darkness, but having the light of life.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The human race consists of two kinds of trees. Bad & Good. You can cover a thorn tree with fig leaves, but it is still a thorn tree. Be sure you are a good tree. Be sure the life of Christ is the life at your core. You are a good tree and a good tree

produces good fruit.

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (20) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

The final end of every bad tree that is still producing thorns, still working iniquity ... is to be rejected.

Mat 7:(21-23) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity.**

The definition of Grace:

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, **denying** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Depart From Iniquity

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

The only place of safety ... hearing and doing His sayings. He said, "You must be born again" and He said ... "repent and believe the gospel."

Mat 7:(24-28) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. (26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (28) And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine:** (29) For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

It is sad that "Christians" TODAY ... are astonished at His doctrine. It is best not to wait until judgment day to find out about His authority. He is right. You are wrong. Repent and believe the gospel.

Weightier Matters Of The Law

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

We have no problem understanding the concept of **judgment** from the law of Moses. The law pronounces all men guilty because no man could keep it. The law was added because of transgression, as in inducement through fear to restrain the flesh. But its primary purpose was to be our schoolmaster, to bring us to Christ.

How does **mercy** apply under the law of Moses? The law taught mercy through the offering of the blood of innocent animals. The sinner should have shed his own blood through death paying for his sin. But the law permitted the shedding of blood of an innocent animal instead as his substitute. It was the foreshadow of the shedding of blood of Jesus, the true Lamb of God, on the cross for us all.

What about **faith** under the law of Moses? You had to believe what God had said regarding every sacrifice. That God received the shedding of blood of that innocent animal as payment for your sin. It was the same regarding every type and shadow under the law. When the priest laid his hands on the scapegoat and sent him into the wilderness to die, you had to have faith that it was your sins being carried away by the sacrifice. When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies every year to put blood on the mercy seat, you had to have faith that God was accepting that blood to forgive you (and the whole nation) for another year.

A "shadow" only exists because something real is casting that shadow. Jesus accused the scribes and Pharisees of focusing on the details of the law so extremely that they missed the TRUTH of what the law was all about ... the law was a shadow of good things to come ... the law was the foreshadow not only of judgment, but also of true mercy and genuine faith.

The story of the woman caught in adultery is one of my favorite teachings of how the law taught not only judgment, but also mercy and faith.

John 8:1-12 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. (2) And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. (3) And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, (4) They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. (5) Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? (6) This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*. (7) So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. (8) And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. (9) And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. (10) When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

1. Judgment: The law was very clear. She was guilty and condemned to death.
2. Judgment: Whatever Jesus wrote on the ground, it convicted every man that they also were guilty of breaking the law, and consequently had no right to cast a stone at her.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

3. Mercy: "Neither do I condemn thee." Why not? Because all of the sacrifices of the law ... all of them ... were shadows of the REAL ... Jesus is the REAL Lamb of God that would be shed not only for the sins of that woman, but for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

4. Faith: "Go and sin no more." Here is where the kingdom of God is so radically different from the law. The law could not give LIFE.

Galatians 3:21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there*

had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

But Jesus continues his teaching in John chapter eight and says the whole REASON man will be able to "go and sin no more" is because of a new law that will be INSIDE the man ... the Law of the LIGHT OF LIFE!

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Jesus said this light of life, "Christ in us," the "new nature," the "nature of Christ" in us ... is the LIFE that empowers us to no longer walk in darkness. Our faith must believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Not Christ without ...but Christ within. Jesus continues his teaching in John chapter eight with those famous verses telling us this "light of LIFE" is the very thing that makes us free from sin:

John 8:31-36 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. [I AM THE TRUTH] (33) They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? (34) Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. (35) And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. (36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

How does the Son make you free from sin? By giving you the same "light of life" that He Himself has. Paul called it the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus:

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

This is the "faith" that the law was the shadow of. It is obvious that the blood of bulls and sheep could not take away sin. They were the shadows cast by the Lamb of God Himself. The blood of Jesus not only washed away our sins, but He did what the law could not do. The law could not give LIFE! But the resurrected Lamb does give LIFE to all who call upon Him.

This is our faith. Christ in you has set you free from sin. You are truly able to "go and sin no more." You are no longer a slave to sin. You are no longer a slave to the law of sin in

your members, your flesh. Christ in you gives you "the light of life" that empowers you to **MORTIFY** the deeds of the body so you can walk by the new nature instead of continuing to walk in the flesh. These are the weightier matters the law was pointing to the whole time ... Judgment by the law, Mercy at the cross, and Faith in the resurrection that Christ gave you the "light of life" to "go and sin no more!"