

The Law in Matthew

The Law in Matthew

Matthew 5:17-20

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks (or loosens: λύω) 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 does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Law in Matthew

Romans 3.21-22

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ¹ for all who believe.

James 2.14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save (σωζω) you?

Matthew 19.22

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well (σωζω)." And instantly the woman was made well (σωζω).

Pauline: Ephesians 2.8-10

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.

For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.

What is the relationship between law, works, and faith in Matthew?

The Law in Matthew

Matthew 7.12

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

The Law in Matthew

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

³⁷He said to him,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Law in Matthew

Matthew 11.28-30

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Law in Matthew

- The Law must be interpreted
- Interpretation must be based on God's preference for mercy, love, and justice
- This is how Jesus interpreted the Law and his commands thus become the Law
- A strict interpretation of the Law based on this principle is easier than a loose interpretation that does not reflect God's love