

# Jesus, Law and Kingdom

## Matthew 5:17-32

“This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

(NIV Jer 31:33)

But / tell you ...

The Jews debated issues like divorce, and what makes an oath binding, but Jesus speaks with authority on fundamental issues (7:28,29).

What is the kingdom of heaven?

What are its laws? And who interprets them?

What does the kingdom look like?

And vitally

How can I be part of the kingdom? (5:20)

## Three key questions

1. Does Jesus undermine the law of Moses, or fulfil it?
2. If Pharisaic righteousness is not the answer, what is?
3. Does this mean a kingdom with no citizens, then?

# Does Jesus undermine the law of Moses, or fulfil it?

God does not need a Plan B

Jesus fulfils the law

- The golden rule (7:12)

- All foods clean (Mark 7:18,19)

- The Sabbath made for man (Mark 2:27,28)

and crucially

- This cup is the new covenant in my blood (Luke 22,20)

But the law and prophets are still essential (5:19)

- The kingdom has a high view of law

## If Pharisaic righteousness is not the answer, what is?

A human court can only judge the act (v22a)

but God judges the heart and the intent (v22b)

However there *is* a distinction between intent and action:  
before the act you still have opportunity to put things right (vv24,25)

Lust is covetousness (v28)

If you covet the painting, stay out of the gallery

Divorce is covenant breaking (vv31,32)

Kingdom law is written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:33)

Does this mean a kingdom with no citizens, then?

None of us can pass the citizenship test!

But God writes the law on our hearts (Jer. 31:33)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, *for they will be filled.* (5:6)

Jesus is “the double cure”

He takes our guilt, declares us citizens  
and writes the law on our hearts

There is only one true gospel message:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near”