

REIGNMAKER

“Bring The Law To Life”

Mat, Isa, Eph, Gal.

Small Group Plan

In his commentary on *The Gospel of Matthew*, Jack P. Lewis used the analogy of marriage to explain the role of the law. After explaining that to “fulfill” means to “uphold” and “accomplish,” he writes:

As marriage does not nullify courtship but accomplishes its purposes, so the new system, while modifying, fulfills the law and prophets. (pg. 86).

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What were the household “rules” when you were a child?
- Did your parents alter or upgrade them as you got older? How?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— OUTSIDE OR INSIDE? —

Matthew 15:8-9 (Isaiah 29:13)

⁸ *These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

⁹ *They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.*

- How does Jesus distinguish between “lips” and “hearts”?
- Are the inside and the outside enemies, friends, both?
- How would you describe the tension between them?

Isaiah 55:8

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

- How are our thoughts not like God’s thoughts?
- Read Philippians 4:8 for a list of God’s thoughts. Contrast the typical human list of thoughts.

Ephesians 3:16-17

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

- How would describe your “inner being”? What shape is it in?
- How can Jesus dwell in our hearts?

— ABOLISH OR FULFILL? —

Matthew 5:17

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.

- How did Jesus fulfill the Old Testament sacrificial system?
- List as many prophecies as you can think of that Jesus’ fulfilled?

Galatians 3:24-25

²⁴ So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

- How did the law lead humanity to Jesus?
- In what sense are we no longer under the law’s guardianship?

— RULES OR RELATIONSHIP? —

Matthew 5:20

For 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.

- In what kind of righteousness did the Pharisees and teachers of the law specialize?
- What kind of righteousness is Jesus describing?
- Given all the hardship we bring, why does God want to have a relationship with us?
- How can rules both help and hinder a relationship?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- What is the best defense against hypocrisy?
- How do you nurture your “inner being”?
- What habits can help us to develop thoughts that are like God’s?
- How can our outer practices nurture our inner faith?
- How can our inner faith control over our outer life?
- Close by asking God to control your inside and change your outside.