

TOTAL INCOMPATIBILITY

Matthew 9:14-17 / Luke 5:33-39 / Mark 2:18-22 : §49

Phil de Martimprey / 9-15-19

In our last lesson we looked at how the Jewish religious leaders had established “fences” to help protect the people from violating the Mosaic Law (Torah). This was a good thing that actually had its beginning with the prophet Ezra. Israel had come under divine judgment for their rejection of the Mosaic Law, so Ezra established a group of men called the “Sopherim” whose goal was to build the initial fence around the Torah. These “fences” were additional rules and regulations intended to keep the Jewish people far away from the edge of violating the Torah. This resulted in thousands of new laws for the Jewish people. After the Sopherim, another group was established called the Tannaim. They took what the Sopherim had done and created fences around that. By the time Jesus arrived on the scene, these “fences” had been elevated to equal to or even greater importance than the Torah given to Moses. They had come to be known as the “Oral Law” (or Mishnah) and had been placed onto the backs of the Jewish people. They were no longer used as a way to guard from breaking the Torah, they were the Law themselves, man made and deceptive, but viewed as divine nonetheless. In fact, by the time Jesus is on the scene they actually claim that the Oral Law was given by God to Moses.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
	→ Total Incompatibility
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

DECEPTION ABOUT FASTING (MATTHEW 9:14)

One particular practice that had become a law to the Jewish people was fasting. In the Torah, there is only one possible reference to a law about fasting (Leviticus 16:29-31). It is related to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, which was just one day a year. However fasting had a rich history for the Jewish people. They would fast whenever the occasion called for it, particularly related to difficult times or decisions they faced as individuals or as a nation. However, a “fence” had been constructed that called for fasting twice a week (i.e. Luke 18:9-14). If you wanted to be right with God, you would fast at least twice a week as well. Having been influenced by this deception, John’s disciples and the Scribes and Pharisees (Luke 5:33) questioned Jesus. Jesus wasn’t fasting twice a week and neither had he taught his disciples to. This was in clear violation of the “Oral Law”. Jesus, however, was quite ready to reveal the deceptive and destructive nature of the Oral Law, as seen with his calling and eating with Matthew, and continuing with his answer about fasting.

TRUTH ABOUT FASTING (MATTHEW 9:15)

Jesus used the image of a wedding party to illustrate one clear point. Regular fasting is not a law, rather, fasting is situational. Fasting is often seen throughout scripture as a way to deny the body of its regular nourishment for a focused time of prayer, almost always in relationship to a very difficult time or difficult decision (Some examples: 2 Sam 12:16-18; Esther 4:3, 16; Jonah 3:6-10). It was a good thing as the occasion called for it, and Jesus had actually taught his disciples how to fast while using the Pharisees as a negative example (Matt 6:16-18). They had established a Law about it, and were following this law to publicly show how righteous they were, and using it to show the unrighteousness of those who didn’t follow it. Jesus wanted his disciples to fast when it was appropriate, which certainly was not while he was with them, and even more certainly not do it out of a sense of needing to follow some law.

THE TOTAL INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE ORAL LAW AND TORAH (MATTHEW 9:16-17)

Jesus then goes on to push beyond just the fasting example. He knew that the Scribes and Pharisees were imposing thousands of laws on the Jewish people that were simply not from God. God

had given Moses the Law and Moses had written it down. These 613 commands were the Law He expected His people to follow, and their foundation was built on a deep love for God and love for others (Matthew 22:37-40). This “Oral Law” had started out as something good, but had become a way to deceive the Jewish people into fear and control. God was not pleased with this “Oral Law”, and Jesus continued to discredit the Oral Law in the face of those who held it most sacred. He answered them with two word pictures to do just that.

Jesus used two illustrations to make one unified point. **The “Oral Law” and the “Torah” are totally incompatible.**

In these illustrations the “unshrunk cloth” and the “new wine” represent the “Oral Law” while the “old garment” and “old wineskins” represent the “Torah”. As the “Oral Law” had been passed down and become more and more cemented in the minds of the Jewish leaders, they saw it as being more important than the “Torah” and were using it to *repair* or *refill* the God given Torah. These illustrations go to show that by placing the Oral Law over the Torah, the Jews had destroyed both the original intent of the Oral Law, and worse, they had destroyed the Law. The Oral Law and Torah were totally incompatible, and Jesus would have none of their attempts to somehow uphold both. The Oral Law had been created by men and was not from God. It may have started as a good thing, but by this point it had become a deceptive addition to the true and good Torah. Luke records the closing words of Jesus in his gospel as, “And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good’” (Luke 5:39)

In these simple pictures, Jesus has shown these Scribes, Pharisees and the disciples of John that he absolutely rejects the authority of the Oral Law, and revealed that holding to the Oral Law is incompatible with the true Law of God revealed in the Torah. He will continue to violate the Oral Law as he continues his ministry, which will ultimately set him completely against the Jewish Religious Leaders, and be one of the primary reasons of his death at their hands.

Next Week: John 5:1-47 / \$50

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Women’s Ministry

Contact Billie Phipps for more info @ 619-922-9576

“Lies Women Believe” Study : Monday’s 6:30pm / Tuesday’s 9:30am (Room 2 / childcare provided)

Annual Bonfire : Saturday, 9/28 @ 6:00pm : Sign up at kiosk on the patio

Men’s Ministry

Contact Al Lerma for more info @ 619-889-6892

Men’s Conference At Pine Valley : October 4-6th : Sign up at kiosk on the patio

Family Info

Contact Grace Office for more info @ 760-789-0562

GCC Membership Info Meeting : Sunday, 9/22 @ 10:15am (2nd service) : In the conference room upstairs