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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Jesus Has the Last Word

Matthew 5:17-20; 38-48

Series: Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God
(Summer Reading Series)

Central Passage

Matthew 5:17–20 (ESV) — **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. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes 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.

Central Thought: Since Jesus is "what God has to say," Jesus has the last word on God's will and purpose for his people and all of mankind.

- ❖ Jesus fulfilled the spirit and purpose of the Law of God, not just the letter. (vs. 17-20)

John 19:28–30 (ESV) — **28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- ❖ Jesus claimed and taught with complete authority over both Jews and Gentiles. (vs. 38, 43)

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV) — **18** And Jesus came and said to them, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19** Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- ❖ Jesus declares and demonstrates that the Law of God is the Law of sacrificial, transformative love. (vs. 38-48)

Matthew 22:36–40 (NIV) — **36** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" **37** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Luke 23:34 (ESV) — **34** And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- ❖ Jesus fills us with his Spirit to enable us to follow him in the way of the Law of Love!

Romans 8:1–5 (ESV) — **1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit

1 John 4:7–8 (ESV) — **7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, **because God is love.**