

## Sermon Notes

### Sermon on the Mount: JESUS AND THE BIBLE

David A. Renwick – January 9, 2021

#### Matthew 5:17 – A Statement on Biblical Authority

I have not come to abolish the Law (of Moses) and the Prophets, but to fulfil them

#### Luke 4: 14-21 – Jesus’ Mission Statement from his Bible

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Isaiah 61:1-2)

#### Matthew 4:1-11 – Jesus’ “weapon” to Resist Temptation

The following Scriptures had been memorized by Jesus

- “It is written (by God in Scripture)\*, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Deuteronomy 8:3
- “It is written\*, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Deuteronomy 6:16
- It is written\*, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Deuteronomy 6:13.

[\*The passive form (“it is written”) is a Jewish way of avoiding reference to God’s name, and is equivalent to “God wrote in Scripture”]

#### Matthew 5:21-37; 6:9, 19-24 – Jesus “strengthens” the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 – see also Matt.19:16-22; Mk.7:9-11)

You have heard it said,

- you shall not murder . . . but I say to you . . .
- you shall not commit adultery . . . but I say to you . . .
- you shall not swear falsely . . . but I say to you . . .

Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth (*referencing the tenth commandment not to covet*)

Pray that God’s name be hallowed (*referencing the third Commandment*)

You cannot serve God and money (*referencing the first and tenth commandments*)

#### Matthew 21 – Jesus Deliberately Fulfills Messianic Prophecy

- “Behold your king comes to you, humble and mounted on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9)

**Article:** Some Reasons Why Humanists Reject The Bible, by Joseph C. Sommer. <https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/reasons-humanists-reject-bible/>

### Presbyterian Church (USA) Constitution

#### a. Ordination Question for Pastors and Officers

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?

#### b. The Confession of 1967

9.27 The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate,

- to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness
- through the Holy Scriptures,
- which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

The Scriptures are not a witness among others, but the witness without parallel.

The church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as prophetic and apostolic testimony in which it hears the word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated.

9.28 The New Testament is the recorded testimony of apostles to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, and the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

#### The Old Testament

bears witness to God’s faithfulness in his covenant with Israel and points the way to the fulfillment of God’s purpose in Christ.

The Old Testament is indispensable to understanding the New, and is not itself fully understood without the New.

9.29 The Bible is to be interpreted

in the light of its witness to God’s work of reconciliation in Christ.

The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless words of human beings, conditioned by

- the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written.
- They reflect views of life, history, and the cosmos which were then current.

***The church, therefore, has an obligation to approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding.***

As God has spoken the divine word in diverse cultural situations,

***the church is confident that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture.***

9.30 God’s word is spoken to the church today

- where the Scriptures are faithfully preached
- and attentively read
- in dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit
- and with readiness to receive their truth and direction.