

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

11-29-15 Ken Carlton

Title: FORCE OF LAW

Main Text: Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon Description: The third adversarial cross-examination attempt by the ideological enemies of Christ is recorded in Matthew 22. The power of Jesus' response cannot be fully appreciated without some background which we will explore in today's message. With the context in view, we feel the punch of Jesus' answers. The full force of the Law is wielded by its author in this exchange to expose the sin of the self-righteous and to proclaim the glory and righteousness of Almighty God! There is a two-fold demonstration of force in Christ's statements including the destructive power of the law against the enemies of the Gospel, as well as its constructive blueprint for Kingdom of God realities. I John 4:21 summarizes the beauty of Christ's teaching with tender clarity: " And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." A truly striking testimony to the divinity of Christ and the inspiration of scripture is demonstrated in our text today as we behold, in the gospel record, how a simple truth can wield such elaborate, strategic force in answering the skeptic, naysayer, autonomous wannabe, and obstreperous rebel. Behold the Word of Christ!

Heading: THE TWO EDGED RESPONSE OF JESUS TO A LAWYER...

1. THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF THIS EXCHANGE

- a. Self-deception record (Lk 7:28-35) b. Self-evident motivations c. Self-incriminating (Dt 6:4-16, Lv 19:15-18)

2. THE CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE OF THIS EXCHANGE

- a. Essence of the law b. Extent of warranted devotion c. Expectations of the Kingdom (Mt 5:17-20)

Close: Calvin: "It now appears from this summary that in the commandments of the law, God does not look at what man can do, but at what they ought to do: since in this infirmity of the flesh it is impossible that perfect love can obtain dominion for we know how strongly all the senses of our soul are disposed to vanity." Mat 26:26-29 reveals the essence of ultimate law fulfillment in the 'arc' of Jesus' ministry.

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
Self deception	Love God	Love neighbor	Negative force	Positive force	Fulfilled
Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:
Luke 7:28-35	Deut 6:4-16	Lev. 19:15-18	Mark 12:32-34	Mt 22:34-40	Mt 5:7-20,26:26:29

FURTHER STUDY: see 'Further Study' posted weekly at providencecrosslake.com

NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 7:1-10 ...*The Order of Melchizedek*...