

Hyperbole

Psalm 119:1-8

Matthew 5:21-30

Reread the passages as a group.

How often were you naughty as a child? What happened if you got caught?

Leviticus shows how God gave the Israelites the “new rules “. They received a lot of them.

- How would you react if you had 613 rules to live by?

The writer of Psalm 119 was rejoicing in not being sovereign. That God commands us how to live. He celebrates an aspect of God we might not want to celebrate.

- How do respond to God’s sovereignty?

Some of the restrictions are gone now and we can eat what we want.

- How do we perceive those laws? Are they all gone? Do you know that there aren’t?

As Americans and Christians we have a complicated relationship with rules.

Jesus tells us that only He has the right to make laws. He didn’t come to abolish... He came to fulfill.

- What does that mean to you?

Jesus uses hyperbole in the sermon on the mount. He says that even if you think a bad thought or mutter a single bad word we are condemned. He waits for us to react to that sermon... to see if we react to His words like the author of 119.

- How will you react?
- How can our reactions change?
- How can we help others react as Jesus us wants to?

JD stated that we don’t have to listen to our doctor. And we don’t unless it is serious. Then we listen and follow our doctor’s orders to the letter to get better. Jesus is telling us the same thing in this sermon. Only He wants to cure our sin, and there is only one way.

- What are ways we avoid following Jesus?
- How can we change that?

How do we react to Jesus' invitation?

- Do you realize you have a lot of work to do?