

Subject: *Jesus and the Scriptures, Part 1*

Scripture: *Matthew 5:17-19*

We are continuing our series of messages about God's written Word. No study of the Bible would be complete without taking a close look at the way Jesus used the Bible. In the King James Version the four Gospels include a total of 3,779 verses. According to one Bible scholar, Graham Scroggie, 1,934 of these verses contain the words of Christ. Some Bibles have the words of Christ printed in red. In those verses where Christ is speaking, about 1 out of 10 verses quote or refer to the Old Testament. The Old Testament was the Bible of Jesus' time. In this message we are going to look at how Jesus used the Bible. We will look how He respected it, quoted it, taught it, trusted it, and used it throughout His ministry. His view of Scripture should have a great impact on our view of Scripture.

1. Jesus confirmed the authority and accuracy of Scripture

He never intended to alter or replace Scripture. He explained the moral content of the Old Testament law and came to fulfill its prophecies about Him. He had a very high view of Scripture. He honored it in every way. He knew it was God's Holy Word and every part of it was important, even to the smallest letter (jot) or part of a letter (tittle). This was the strongest possible way to confirm the inspiration of the Bible. The people were amazed at Jesus' teachings because He used the Bible to back up everything He said, *Matthew 7:28-29* *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Jesus had total confidence in the historical integrity of the Bible. He referred to many people in Scripture: Adam and Eve, Abel, Abraham, Daniel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Isaac, Jacob, Jonah, Lot, Moses, Noah, Queen of Sheba, Solomon, and Zechariah. Jesus referred to the places and events recorded in Scripture: creation, the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, the burning bush, the manna, and Moses' serpent on the pole. He never questioned it or cast doubt on the accuracy of the Bible.

2. Jesus used Scripture to explain His life and ministry

He used the Bible to help people understand who He was and why He came. He did this at the beginning of His ministry, in the middle, and at the end of His ministry.

- At the beginning of His ministry
Luke 4:16-21 *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*
- During the middle of His ministry
John 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.* The Jews were sure they had eternal life in the Scriptures, but they thought they could have it without Christ. *John 5:45-47* ⁴⁵ *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.* ⁴⁶ *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.* ⁴⁷ *But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

- At the end of His ministry
After His death and resurrection, Jesus talked with some of His disciples on the road to Emmaus, **Luke 24:25-27** *Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

3. Jesus used Scripture to correct misunderstanding and false teaching

Over and over Jesus said, “You have heard it said, but I say unto you.” Jesus went beyond the external and the superficial teachings to bring out the spiritual depth of Scripture. He taught the importance of the heart and the attitude as well as the outward act. Jesus uncovered the simple truth of Scripture. He peeled off the layers of manmade tradition that had been put on the Scriptures by the scribes and Pharisees. He said, “You have made the Word of God of no effect by your traditions.” Let’s look at some examples:

- **Matthew 12:1-8** ¹ *At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.* ² *But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.* ³ *But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;* ⁴ *How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?* ⁵ *Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?* ⁶ *But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.* ⁷ *But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.* ⁸ *For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.*
- **Matthew 15:1-6** ¹ *Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,* ² *Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.* ³ *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?* ⁴ *For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.* ⁵ *But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;* ⁶ *And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*
- **Matthew 19:3-6** ³ *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?* ⁴ *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,* ⁵ *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?* ⁶ *Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*
- **Matthew 22:23-33** ²³ *The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,* ²⁴ *Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.* ²⁵ *Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife,*

deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: ²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. ²⁷ And last of all the woman died also. ²⁸ Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. ²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. ³¹ But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, ³² I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. ³³ And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.

4. Jesus used Scripture to defeat Satan

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He relied on the truth of Scripture. Jesus knew the Scripture well because the devil quoted a verse and tried to get him to jump from the pinnacle of the temple. But Jesus knew that Satan was twisting and perverting the scripture and he would not fall for it. Three times Jesus quoted verses from Deuteronomy.

- **Matthew 4:1-10** ¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

If Jesus read, learned, and memorized Scripture, shouldn't we? If He trusted and obeyed it shouldn't we? Jesus could have taught people without even mentioning the Scripture. After all, He was the Son of God and He had all authority. But He constantly pointed people to the Scripture because He wanted them to use it as their source of authority, belief, guidance, strength, and protection.