

“A New Kind of Religion” – Sermon Reflection
Questions
December 13, 2009
Jeremiah 31:31-37, Unlocking the Old Testament

During our Advent season we are looking at the Major Prophets in the Old Testament and how their words prophesied about the coming of Christ. We are specifically looking at the various roles and outcomes that Jesus would bring with Him when He came upon the earth.

This week we look at the Prophet Jeremiah and his words to the Israelites about how religion, as they know it, will change when God brings His anointed one, Jesus Christ. No longer will their religion be based on laws that are written on paper, but upon what God lays on their heart.

1. Read Jeremiah 31:31-37. What was the basic difference between the old way God had done things and the new way God had done things?

2. Read Matthew 5:17-20.
 - a. What is the law?

 - b. What argument does Jesus make to get across that He is not condoning sinful behavior?

3. Read Matthew 5:21-48. I mentioned in the message that the Jewish leaders often lived by the “letter of the law” rather than the underlying spirit and intention of the law. Read Matthew 5:21-48 how specifically were the people living according to the “letter of the law” rather than the underlying spirit and intention of the law?

4. How could a misunderstanding of Jeremiah 31:31-37 be used to justify permissive and sinful behavior?

5. Read Galatians 4:1-7 and Romans 8:1-4.
 - a. What is the law good for?

 - b. What can the law not do?

 - c. How do Jesus and the Holy Spirit fulfill what the law can't do?

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6. One way the coming of Jesus changes our faith is that He is a model of how to live rather than just getting our instructions off of paper. In what way could your life model Jesus to a greater extent? (i.e. what characteristic of Jesus’ life would you like to be displayed in your life to a greater extent?)

7. With the coming of Jesus, comes the Holy Spirit in a whole new way. Read Galatians 5:17-24.

a. How is the coming of the Holy Spirit superior to what the law could not do?

b. Practically speaking how do we “live by the Spirit”?