

Matthew 5:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Analysis

Jesus affirms the permanent authority of God's Law while warning against antinomianism. Breaking even 'least commandments' and teaching others to do so results in diminished status in the Kingdom. Greatness comes through obedience and faithful teaching, not through grace that ignores holiness.

Historical Context

Jewish teachers debated which commandments were 'heavy' (important) and 'light' (less important). Some used this distinction to minimize certain laws. Jesus rejects this selective obedience and affirms all of God's revelation matters.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Which of God's commands are you tempted to consider 'small' or optional?
2. How does obedience to Scripture's 'least' commands demonstrate love for God?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	ἐάν	οὖν	λύση	μίαν	τῶν	ἐντολῶν	
Whosoever	G1437	therefore	shall break	G1520	G3588	commandments	
G3739		G3767	G3089			G1785	
τούτων	τῶν	ἐλάχιστος	καὶ	διδάξη	οὕτως	τοὺς	
of these	G3588	least	and	shall teach	so	G3588	
G5130		G1646	G2532	G1321	G3779		
ἀνθρώπους	ἐλάχιστος	κληθήσεται	ἐν	τῇ	βασιλείᾳ	τῶν	
men	least	he shall be called	in	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	
G444	G1646	G2564	G1722		G932		
οὐρανῶν	ὅς	δ'	ἂν	ποιήσῃ	καὶ	διδάξη	οὗτος
of heaven	Whosoever	but	G302	shall do	and	shall teach	them the same
G3772	G3739	G1161		G4160	G2532	G1321	G3778
μέγας	κληθήσεται	ἐν	τῇ	βασιλείᾳ	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	
great	he shall be called	in	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of heaven	
G3173	G2564	G1722		G932		G3772	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 11:11 (Kingdom): Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Psalms 119:6 (Word): Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Daniel 12:3 (Parallel theme): And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Titus 3:8 (Parallel theme): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Revelation 2:20 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Romans 6:15 (Word): What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Romans 6:1 (Parallel theme): What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?