THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

Week 3 — The Wild God

Matthew 5:17–20 | October 25, 2026

Can God's Law be managed, or only received?

TWO MOUNTAINS

Same God. New mountain. The next chapter of the same message.
SINAI (Exodus 19): Fire, smoke, thunder. Stay back.
THE HILLSIDE (Matthew 5): A crowd in the grass. Jesus among them.

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law. He came to fulfill it.

THE LAW, EXPLAINED

Abolish vs. Fulfill — v. 17
Jesus does not demolish what came before. He fills it to the brim.

A Mirror, Not a Ladder — Romans 3:20
The Law was never a way to climb to God. It shows us what we are.

Not One Stroke — vv. 18–19
The Law still stands, and what we do with it matters in the kingdom.

Fulfilled in Christ — Ephesians 2:8–10
Saved by grace, not works. Created for the good works God prepared for us.

The Law demanded righteousness. Christ supplied it.
The Law demanded obedience. Christ rendered it.
The Law demanded death. Christ bore it.

THE WILD GOD AND THE DOMESTICATED LAW

Righteousness That Surpasses — v. 20
Not a higher score than the Pharisees. A changed heart.

Domesticated vs. Wild
A domesticated law regulates actions. A wild law reveals souls.

The Fence
The Law is a good fence. The failure was camping at the fence line instead of going further in.

Written on the Heart — Jeremiah 31:33
God writes His Law on the heart by His Spirit, not on stone we manage from outside.

FURTHER UP AND FURTHER IN

The Law can't be managed. It can only be received.

NOTES

THIS WEEK

What is Jesus showing me about the purpose of the Law?

Where have I tried to make God safe, predictable, or manageable?

What have I been containing in my heart that I haven't let God near?

PRACTICE

Have one honest conversation with God about what's actually going on in your heart. Not the version you'd post. The real one.

Ask: Am I standing at the fence, or walking further in?

TALK ABOUT IT

Did you grow up closer to "the rules are everything" or "the rules don't really matter"? How has that shaped the way you follow Jesus?