

Object lesson: Christ and the Law

Needed: a mirror

Ask: What do we use a mirror for?

(answers will include "to show us our face is dirty or our hair's out of place)

What do you do when you see in the mirror that something is wrong with your appearance? Rub the mirror against your face or hair? (No)

The mirror shows you that your face is dirty, but the mirror cannot wash your face. The mirror shows you your hair is messy, but it will not comb your hair for you.

The purpose of the mirror is to show you what needs to be taken care of in your life -- it points you to the comb or washcloth. Any other use of the mirror is ridiculous.

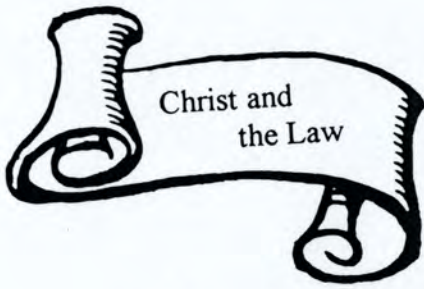
Some people try to live their lives on their own, thinking they are righteous if they keep the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said, "*Except your righteousness shall exceed* the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:20).

In so many words, Jesus let us know that we can't do it ourselves!

Read or quote: Galatians 3:24 -- Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

When God established the Law, it was to show men their sinfulness. (Just like the mirror). The Law itself could not save them. It pointed them to the One who could do the work -- to forgive their sins, to cleanse, to heal them.

When Christ came, He fulfilled the Law and established a new and better way. Only by coming to Jesus can we be saved.

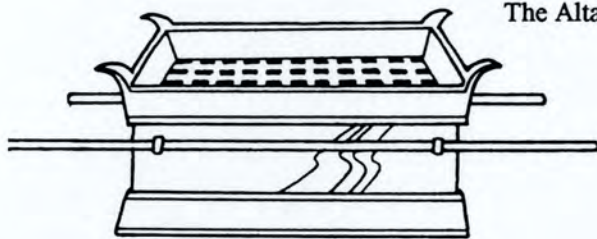


Because Jesus *fulfilled* the Law (*meaning: to carry out or make complete*), we no longer have to keep it in order to be forgiven of our sins and live a life pleasing to God.

As you discuss what these things meant and how they pointed to Christ, match each picture in the SHADOW column to the THINGS TO COME.

SHADOWS

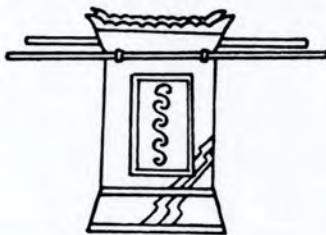
THINGS TO COME



The Altar of Burnt Offering

God's Word is a Lamp and a Light

The Altar of Incense



Giving thanks to God for our daily food



The Death of Christ and the Blood Atonement

The Lamb without spot or blemish

Prayers of God's People



The Golden Candlestick

The Presence and Holiness of God

The Table of the Show-bread



Sinlessness of Jesus



The Ark of the Covenant

lesson 147

Opener: Imagine for a moment that you are driving along the highway, when suddenly you are stopped by an accident. A truck has jackknifed and its driver lies trapped in the wreckage. Several men from passing cars have stopped and are trying to free him from the wreckage. They are standing side by side and trying to lift the bumper to pull him free -- but it is too heavy.

Soon, a tow truck arrives to lift the truck off the man. But the men need to get out of the way so the tow truck can attach its winch to lift the truck. If the men will not get out of the way, the tow truck cannot do its work. There is nothing wrong with these men -- they are simply not strong enough to lift the heavy truck.

Just as these men needed to get out of the way for the tow truck to work, the Law was abolished so that the Grace of God through Christ Jesus could work in our lives and do the job the Law could not do.

“CHRIST AND THE LAW” LESSON PLAN— LESSON 147

OPENER

Ask each student to draw a picture of one of the Ten Commandments, using stick figures. If the class is large, have several students work together on one picture. Allow time for each student (or group) to share his picture and the meaning of the Commandment.

HISTORY AND BIBLE EXPLORATION

Give the students some background information on the Law.

1. Through Moses, God gave the Commandments on tables of stone to the Children of Israel. The people brought animals to the priest, so he could make sacrifices for their sins.
2. The Law was to constitute their moral, ceremonial, and civic code when they became a nation in the Promised Land.
3. The Law was known as God’s covenant with Israel. God promised to bless them if they would obey him.

(See Teacher’s Guide Reference Information, page 19)

Pass out a pencil and index card to each student. Have students read pre-selected verses, looking for the main idea. Then each student should write a “telegram version,” summarizing the message of the passage in as few words as possible. Share these abridged editions.

Some Scripture passages concerning the Law: Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 8:3,4; 10:4-9; Galatians 2:16; 1 Timothy 1:8-11. (See THINGS TO DO)

BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITY

As you narrate, have two students act out the parts of the enclosed skit entitled, “The Pharisee and the Prostitute.”

APPLICATION TO LIFE

Ask students if there are any laws that Christians must follow if they believe on Jesus Christ. If so, what are they?

1. The Greatest Commandment.
2. “Obey those who have the rule over you.”

If we obey the “love God and others” rule, will we disobey the Ten Commandments? Why or why not? Use a transparency to show both commandments for comparison.

THE PHARISEE AND THE PROSTITUTE

Pharisees were religious men who prided themselves in keeping the Law perfectly. This Pharisee entered the church as though he owned the place. The prostitute came in slowly with her head bowed down.

NARRATOR: Two people went to the church to pray. One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a miniskirted prostitute. The proud Pharisee prayed this prayer.

PHARISEE: “Thank You, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that prostitute over there! I never cheat, I am faithful to my wife, I am a vegetarian, and I give money to the church!”

NARRATOR: The prostitute stood at a distance and didn’t even lift her eyes to Heaven as she prayed. She wept uncontrollably, wailing,

PROSTITUTE: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

NARRATOR: I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee returned to her home forgiven! The next day the Pharisee said to the prostitute,

PHARISEE: “You should have been stoned for your sins or, at least, have sacrificed an animal! You look too free and happy. Why aren’t you bringing an animal for the priest to sacrifice? How else do you imagine God could forgive you?”

PROSTITUTE: “God commanded the Israelites in the time of Moses to offer animals as a sacrifice for sin, but now we can humbly pray directly to God.”

PHARISEE: “Who gives you the authority to live your life in this manner?”

PROSTITUTE: “Jesus is my authority. The Bible tells us that a person is not saved by obeying the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. I am free! God has forgiven me!”