

Handout #1: Lesson 7  
**TEACHING ON THE LAW OF THE OLD COVENANT**

*The New Law or the Law of the Gospel is the perfection here on earth of the divine law, natural and revealed. It is the work of Christ and is expressed particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. It is also the work of the Holy Spirit and through him it becomes the interior law of charity... (CCC# 1965).*

*The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jer 31:31-33).*

*I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees (Ez 36:25-27).*

Jesus begins this part of His discourse with the assurance that He has not come to abandon the earlier revelation of Yahweh. His reference to the entire body of what we call the Old Testament which includes these major sections:

1. Pentateuch: or Torah in the Hebrew; usually translated as “the law” Torah really means “revealed instruction.” This section has the instructions and revelations of God contained in the 5 books of Moses.
2. Histories and Wisdom books: Kesuvim in Hebrew = the “writings” which includes the history of the children of Israel and the other writings including the poetry and wisdom literature.
3. Books of the Prophets: Neviim in Hebrew = the books of the “prophets” are God’s judgments and revelations to His people.

The Old Testament contains:

1. Doctrinal teaching: The Old Testament instructs us about God, the revelation of His relationship with man, and the promise of man’s salvation. It is, however, an incomplete revelation.
2. Ethical precepts: The moral law is revealed throughout the Old Testament, instructing God’s people in holiness.
3. History and Predictive prophecy: Predictive prophecies are warnings of God’s judgment and the promise of the coming of the Messiah from David’s line. Predictive prophecy anticipates the coming of Jesus either in direct prophecy or foreshadows Him in biblical “types.” Predictive prophecy anticipates a future fulfillment.

Concerning the imperfection of the old sacrificial system the inspired writer of Hebrews writes: *This is a symbol of the present time, in which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the worshiper in conscience but only in matters of food and drink and various ritual washings: regulations concerning the flesh, imposed until the time of the **new order**. But when Christ came as high priest of the **good things** that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, **not belonging to this creation**, he entered once and for all into the sanctuary not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption (Heb 9:9-10).*

Handout #2: Lesson 7

**SIX EXAMPLES OF CONDUCT JESUS DEMANDS OF THE CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE: The Six Antitheses: Matthew 5:21-48**

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| 1. TEACHING ABOUT ANGER<br>Matthew 5:21-26             | 4. TEACHING ABOUT OATHS<br>Matthew 5:33-37           |
| 2. TEACHING ABOUT SEXUAL IMMORALITY<br>Matthew 5:27-30 | 5. TEACHING ABOUT RETALIATION<br>Matthew 5:38-42     |
| 3. TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE<br>Matthew 5:31-32           | 6. TEACHING ABOUT LOVE OF ENEMIES<br>Matthew 5:43-48 |

Using the repeated formula *You have heard it said / But I say to you* and *It was also said to you / But I say to you*, Jesus internalizes and intensives the Law of Moses to yield the standard of New Law obedience. Jesus will use this formula to teach six examples of Christian conduct each of which deals with a commandment of the Mosaic Law or an interpretation of a commandment. He will use the formula six times in Mat 5:21-22; 27-28; 31-32; 33-34; 38-39; and 43-44 but in verse 26 His additional *I say to you* makes His use of the authoritative *I say to you* is repeated seven times. Six is the number representing man and rebellion in Scripture while the number seven represents fullness, completion, and especially spiritual perfection [see the document *The Significance of Numbers in Scripture* in the Documents section of Agape Bible Study]. The seven times repetition of Jesus' command: *I say to you...*, emphasizes the spiritual perfection to which He calls Christian disciples of all generations.

**“You have heard [It was also said] / I say to you” Formula**

1. Matthew 5:21-22	<i>You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. <b>But I say to you,</b> whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment...</i>
2. Matthew 5:27-28	<i>You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <b>But I say to you,</b> everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.</i>
3. Matthew 5:31-32	<i>It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.’ <b>But I say to you,</b> whoever divorces his wife [unless the marriage is unlawful] causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.</i>
4. Matthew 5:33-34	<i>Again, <b>you have heard</b> to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’ <b>But I say to you,</b> do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God’s...</i>
5. Matthew 5:38-39	<i>You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <b>But I say to you,</b> offer no resistance to one who is evil.</i>
6. Matthew 5:43-44	<i>You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <b>But I say to you,</b> love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...</i>

**The use of “I say to you” without the formula**

<b>7. Matthew 5:26</b>	<i>Amen, <b>I say to you,</b> you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.</i>
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Handout #3 - Lesson 7

The moral law and the ritual of worship were transformed but remain as part of the New Covenant. The established liturgical worship of the Old Covenant including a centralized Church hierarchy, the priests, altar, holy water, incense, hymns, prayer, Sacred Scripture readings, holy days of obligation, and the Tamid sacrifice, called the “**perpetual sacrifice**” which was the sacrifice of **two** lambs offered daily for the sins of the people. All of that is now transformed into the New Covenant liturgy of the risen Christ—the Mass, in which there are priests, an altar, holy water, incense, hymns, prayer, Sacred Scripture readings, holy days of obligation and the celebration of the offering of the **perpetual sacrifice** of the Holy Eucharist encompassing the **two** aspect of the nature of Jesus the Lamb of God, the humanity and divinity of the risen Savior, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—the sacrifice of Calvary, contemporary to every generation and offered daily for the sins of humanity! Note: the Hebrew word “tamid” means “**standing**” as in continual or **perpetual** (see Exodus 29:38-42 where Yahweh commands that this sacrifice is a *perpetual burnt offering for all your generations to come...* (New Jerusalem translation)).

OLD COVENANT LITURGICAL WORSHIP	NEW COVENANT LITURGICAL WORSHIP
The centralized Church hierarchy located in Jerusalem	The centralized Church hierarchy located in Rome
The ministerial priesthood	The ministerial priesthood
Altar of sacrifice	Altar that represents the table of the Last Supper, the empty tomb, and the sacrificial altar.
Holy water for ritual purification	Holy water to signify interior purification
Incense in worship representing the prayers of the people rising up to heaven	Incense in worship representing the prayers of the people rising up to heaven
Hymns from the Psalms and music	Hymns including those from the Psalms and music
Prayers and petitions of the faithful offered to God	Prayers and petitions of the faithful offered to God
Readings from Sacred Scripture = the Torah, Writings, and the Prophets	Readings from Sacred Scripture: the Old Testament, the Gospels and the New Testament
7 Annual Holy Days of Obligation	Holy Days of Obligation [number differs in different countries]
The Tamid, a sacrifice of two lambs daily for the people was the most important of all sacrifices commanded to be a perpetual sacrifice for all generations.	The Eucharist, a perpetual sacrifice of the risen Jesus in His humanity and divinity, offered every hour of the day around the world for the people for all generations.

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