

Heavenly Father, Help us remember
that the jerk who cut us off in traffic
last night is a single mother who
worked nine hours that day and
is rushing home to cook dinner,
help with homework,
do the laundry and spend a
few precious moments
with her children.

Help us to remember that the
pierced, tattooed, disinterested
young man who can't make
change correctly is a worried
19-year-old college student,
balancing his apprehension
over final exams with his
fear of not getting his
student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord,
that the scary looking bum,
begging for money in the same
spot every day (who really ought
to get a job!) is a slave to addictions
that we can only imagine in our
worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the
old couple walking annoyingly
slow through the store aisles
and blocking our shopping
progress are savoring this
moment, knowing that,
based on the biopsy report
she got back last week, this
will be the last year that they
go shopping together.

Heavenly Father,
remind us each day that,
of all the gifts you give us,
the greatest gift is love.

It is not enough to share
that love with those
we hold dear.

Open our hearts not to

just those who are
close to us,
but to all humanity.

Let us be slow to judge
and quick to forgive,
show patience,
empathy and
love.

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Submitted by Elizabeth Potter

THE LAW

BY MATTHEW DAY

First, let me lay the foundation. Most of you probably already believe this, but I am going to prove it anyways. Salvation is by grace and has ALWAYS BEEN by grace.

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it *is* a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

[Exodus 34:6-9](#)

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

[Genesis 15:6](#)

For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

[Hebrews 10:4](#)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

[John 14:6](#)

There, now that that is out of the way, I can begin writing about the controversial stuff. Why talk about the law? Wasn't that done away with when the Christ came? I don't think so.

LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

[Psalms 119:89](#)

For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law**, till all be fulfilled.

[Matthew 5:18](#)

Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

[Romans 7:12](#)

Ok, so obviously the law is still here, but does it apply to us? Isn't the law a Jewish thing?

And a **mixed** multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

[Exodus 12:38](#)

And **all the people answered together**, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

[Exodus 19:8](#)

One ordinance *shall be both* for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth *with you*, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye *are*, so shall the stranger be before the LORD. One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.

[Numbers 15:15-16](#)

So, race and nationality have absolutely nothing to do with whether the law applies to you. Now, let's see how well I jump into my argument. Jesus kept Torah (commonly known as the law). Why do you think the Pharisees

had such a hard time finding fault with Him.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

[Matthew 5:17](#)

Didn't the law change, when Jesus came? Aren't we to follow a new law? God doesn't change.

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

[Exodus 3:14](#)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

[Hebrews 13:8](#)

God's law doesn't change.

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

[Numbers 23:19](#)

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

[Exodus 12:14](#)

What is sin? The literal meaning is "to miss the mark," but that is not what I am interested in right now. To sin is to break God's law.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

[1 John 3:4](#)

BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

[Psalms 119:9-11](#)

Before I go on, let's get some foundation.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, **that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

[Titus 2:11-14](#)

As God's children, we are a new creation.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

[Colossians 3:9](#)

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

[Ephesians 4:24](#)

"Put off the old man with his deeds." What does that mean? Need a hint.

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

[1 John 3:6](#)

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

[John 14:23](#)

We have been freed from the punishment of the law, not the instruction of the law. Try looking at it this way: God is our Father. Just like my dad has rules for me, God has rules for His children. My dad isn't going to disown

me just because I ran in the house once or didn't do my school work. Nevertheless, God still wants us to obey, just as my dad wants me to obey. Yes, there will be punishment, but it is loving punishment rather than condemning punishment. It is the same way with God.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
[Hebrews 12:7](#)

Of course, it is impossible to live without ever sinning. But that doesn't mean you can't try. Every time you fall, get back up, confess your sin, and move on. Just because you broke the law, doesn't mean you should go ahead and break it again. Learn from your mistakes. God is with you, and He will help you to the end.

But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
[Jeremiah 31:33](#)

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
[1 John 3:24](#)

It is no more sin to lie than to break the Sabbath. It is no more sin to make an idol for yourself than to ignore the feasts. What is the difference between Sabbath and honesty? What is the difference between humility and keeping God first? Sin is sin.

Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.
[Exodus 31:14](#)

Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.
[Exodus 12:15](#)

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

[Isaiah 2:3](#)

And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have* no *rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

[Zechariah 14:16-18](#)

Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

[Revelation 22:14](#)

If heaven is where there is no sadness and no hatred and everyone's heart is filled with joy, and we will be keeping Torah in heaven, then don't you think it is a blessing to be able to obey God here on earth? We have been adopted into God's family though the death of His only begotten son. We owe God our lives.

And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.

[Deuteronomy 26:18-19](#)

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