

The Ethics of Jesus

- Controversial ethics
- Kingdom ethics
- Jesus and Judaism
- The Sermon on the Mount

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Controversial Ethics

- A focal point for controversy.
 - The center of Christianity?
 - Highest expression of Christian faith?
 - The “remains” of Christianity after the supernatural is eliminated?
 - An impossible ideal?
 - A new legalism?
 - Not practical?

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Kingdom Ethics

- How are they eschatological ethics?
- How are they kingdom ethics?

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Kingdom Ethics

- The gospel as *Gabe* (gift) & *Aufgabe* (task).
- Inbreaking kingdom makes these ethics both possible and necessary.
 - Only future: not possible.
 - Fully present: not necessary.
- Example of doing NT theology.

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Jesus and Judaism

- How do Jesus’ ethics reflect his Jewish heritage?
 - Golden Rule in rabbinic sources (negative form).
 - New foundation: teaches on his own authority.
 - Antitheses in the Sermon on the Mount.
- How does Jesus handle the OT Law?

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Jesus and Judaism

- Jesus sums up the Law with the double love command.
 - Love of God and neighbor.
 - This is Jesus’ “law of love.”
 - Even love of enemies.
 - Matera: hermeneutical key to Jesus’ view of the Law.
 - Matera: Matthew suggests the law *as interpreted by Jesus the Messiah* is still valid.

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Sermon on the Mount

- Sermon is Jesus' central teaching on ethics.
 - The indicative of the kingdom entails the imperative of the moral life.
 - This is the righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees.
 - This is how to be true Israel (N. T. Wright).

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Sermon on the Mount

- What does righteousness mean in Matthew?

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Sermon on the Mount

- Does Matthew teach salvation by works?
 - Conflict with justification by faith in Paul?
 - Justification = righteousness (*dikaïosyne*).

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The Ethics of Jesus

What should we do today
with the ethics of Jesus?

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