

Gospel of Matthew “Fulfill the Law”
Matthew 5:17-20
April 24, 2020

Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Abolish and fulfill.

Jesus giving us the best interpretation of God’s word.

Jesus will live out the Scriptures in action.

Jesus will fulfill the Old Testament in that all of it points to Him.

Jesus is planting a value in us for Hebrew Scripture.

The difference between the ceiling and the floor.

Romans 8:3-4

3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The law is not the source of our rightness but the course of our rightness.

Matthew 5:19

19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:43-44

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5:20

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

How do we exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees?

Our righteousness exceeds that of the pharisees when it comes from the heart.

Matthew 15

18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. **20** These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

The inside always catches up with the outside.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- How do you understand the New Testament Christian's relationship with the Old Testament? Why might Christians want to separate themselves from the Old Testament?
- When Jesus says I have come to “fulfill” the Old Testament Scripture, what does he mean? How does Jesus actually raise the value of Scripture?
- How has the life and death of Jesus set us in a better place with the Law? Read Romans 8:3-4.
- What was Jesus' criticism often leveled at the Pharisee? How do we live out a righteousness that exceeds the Pharisee?
- Discuss the idea of “duty and delight.” How does delight always accomplish more than duty?
- In what way could your Grow Group place a higher value on the Scriptures this week?