

# The Sermon on the Mount: Jesus & the Law

*Matthew 5:17-20*

## The Fulfilled Law (v. 17-18)

- The Law & Prophets: A summative way of saying The Old Testament
  - The Law: The Torah (Gen-Deut)
  - The Prophets: The Nevi'im (Josh-2 Kings, Isa-Mal)<sup>6</sup>
- Not abolish, but fulfill
  - Abolish (*kataluo*): To destroy, demolish, dismantle
  - Fulfill (*plároo*): To bring to completion or finish something's intended purpose
  - Jesus has come to accomplish what God intended in the OT
- The purpose of the Law was to set apart God's people from the world to live as an example to their neighbors (the Gentiles) (Ex 19:6)
  - This way of living reveals God to them and was meant to attract them to Him (Dt 4:5-8)

## Real Righteousness (v. 19-20)

- Jesus states that we are to keep all of God's commands
  - He later clarifies that love for God & neighbor is how we do this (Mt 22:37-40)
- And this is repeated throughout the NT (Rom 13:8, 10; Gal 5:14; 6:2)
- Failure to perfectly keep all that God commands does not lose us a place in God's kingdom
  - However, it does determine what our place will be
- Jesus calls His disciples to be righteous in a way that exceeds the self-righteousness of the Scribes & Pharisees<sup>9</sup>
  - Imbued Righteousness: Right standing with God given through faith in Jesus that leads to right actions
  - Self-righteousness: The false belief that right actions will earn one right standing with God
- Self-righteous legalism will not lead to any place in God's kingdom
  - Only Jesus' righteousness can do that

## So What?

- Are we living as salt & light, positively impacting those around us with the love of Jesus?
- Are we trusting Jesus to do this work in and through us by His Spirit?
- Or are we relying on our own efforts alone?

**Meditation Verse:** *Matthew 5:16*