

# The Gospel of Matthew

***“Jesus & the Fulfillment of the Law”***  
**Matthew 5:17-20**

## Matthew 5:17-20

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law of the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law until all is accomplished.

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

## Matthew 5:17-20

“For I say to you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

## Jesus & the Law

### 1. Foundational Statement (v17)

➤ *“I did not come to abolish but to fulfill”*

- Jesus upheld the abiding authority of the Scriptures
- “fulfill” – the coming into being of that to which the Scripture pointed forward

## Jesus & the Law

### 1. Foundational Statement (v17)

➤ *implications*

- the entire Old Testament is “prophetic”
- the entire Old Testament is “Christological”
- the fulfillment of the Old Testament is not an abolishing of it

## Jesus & the Law

### 2. Abiding significance of the Law

➤ *permanent value*

- the Law is as permanent as heaven and earth and will never lose its significance
- all that the Law points forward to will in fact become a reality

## Jesus & the Law

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### 2. Abiding significance of the Law

➤ *change in application*

- “these commandments” are obeyed in a new sense with the fulfillment in Jesus
- the Law’s fulfillment by Jesus determines its application under the New Covenant

## Jesus & the Law

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### 3. Limitation of legal observance

➤ *the need for a surpassing righteousness*

- the righteousness of the Pharisees was an outward, legal observance of the Law
- the righteousness of the kingdom is essentially an inward righteousness of the heart

## Jesus & the Law

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### Conclusion

- this demand for a surpassing righteousness is a call most deeply for the new birth
- the new birth will be demonstrated in this inward, heart-righteousness