

Sermon on the Mount Part 7
Jesus Fulfills the Law
Matthew 5:17-20

Introduction:

- Matthew 7:28-29 In this verse we see that Jesus taught with power and authority.
- Remember that this sermon is Jesus' first lengthy message to the crowds and His method of teaching is obviously already much different than that of the religious leaders of the day.
- With these thoughts in our minds let's read Matthew 5:17-20

I. Christ fulfills the Law (verse 17-18)

- Over the next several weeks we will begin to look at various aspects of Jesus' teaching of the law.
 - Jesus is simply making some introductory comments that He was not opposing the Law of Moses.
 - Jesus' teaching was simply going to free the listeners from the way in which the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees interpreted the law.
 - Jesus never added anything to the law except one thing. Jesus was able to fulfill the law in perfect obedience.
- Today on this side of the Cross of Christ we can see that Jesus delivered exactly as He said He would.
 - In the "Who is Jesus" series we learned the following truths about Jesus and prophecy
 - We studied the signs, miracles, and wonders prophecies of the Messiah from Isaiah 35:2-6
 - We studied the virgin birth Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6
- Jesus fulfilled the requirement of the Law "Perfection"
 - Exodus 12:1-13
 - John 1:29 "...behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world."
 - The Law required a spotless lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of the people.
 - Psalm 34:20 indicates the messiah's bones would not be broken.
 - Isaiah 53 describes the events of the crucifixion in detail.
 - Ultimately we see some 300 prophecies of who the Messiah would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus!
- Not on "jot" or "tittle" would be left out until everything would be accomplished.
 - The jot and the tittle were Hebrew punctuation marks. This would be like saying not one I would be undotted or T left uncrossed until everything would be completed.
 - John 19:30 we see this so wonderfully filled in the last words of Jesus from the cross. "It is Finished"

II. Teaching of the Law (verse 19)

- We are to obey the Law of God
 - The Christian does not relate to the "Law of God" by looking to it for justification.
 - The Christian is justified by the completed work of Christ on the cross and their belief in Jesus' death in their place, for their sins, and His resurrection from the dead. Romans 10:8-9.
 - Read Galatians 2:20-21 In these wonderful two verses of scripture Paul shows the wonderful balance being justified by Christ, dying to self, and God's amazing grace.
 - Read Galatians 3:24-25 The "Law of God" is like a teacher that simply teaches us our need for salvation through Christ. In the Law itself we are not justified.
 - The Law of God points us to our need for the Jesus. As a believer in Jesus (faith) I am no longer under the Law.

III. Your righteous must exceed religion! (Verse 20)

- Two types of righteousness
 - As we think about this topic of observance of the "Law of God" versus the relationship to Christ who better to examine than the comments of a former Pharisee named Paul.
 - As we look to these next few verses we must give Paul some real consideration in his comments seeing that God inspired him to write nearly half of the New Testament letters.
 - Philippians 3:1-11
 - In this passage of scripture we see that Paul clearly teaches that if it were human observation of the God's Law made us in right standing before God then He would have much to boast about. **Man's Righteousness**
 - Yet in the midst of all the perceived righteousness from man, Paul says I count those a loss for Christ! **God's Righteousness**
 - Paul was a great demonstration of a man that emptied himself of himself and in that act of obedience experienced the fullness of knowing Christ and His Righteousness!
- What type of righteousness does your life demonstrate?