

## Sermon on the Mount: All God's Word Fulfilled

Mathew 5:17-20 (also Mathew 15:1-20; Mathew 23)

v.17 – Jesus claimed that he came not to destroy the Law or the Prophets (The Old Testament): I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Certainly the fulfillment of scripture is one of the prime focuses of this gospel account. From the beginning he wanted us to understand how Jesus coming was fulfillment of God's word – Mathew 1:22, Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son..... Jesus himself spoke of fulfilling righteousness seeking to be baptized. Mathew 3:15, And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. And now Jesus lets his listeners know that he has come to fulfil the Law and not destroy it. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets. The manifestation of the prophecies given by the prophets and the continuation, completing, filling out of God's Holy Law. Jesus came to clarify the meaning and intent of the Law and to move it to an even higher level. Through Jesus, the righteousness of the Law would be fulfilled in us (Rom. 8:4)

v.18 – Till heaven and earth pass, the end of all of time, not one jot – jod, the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet and the smallest—or tittle—a small stroke distinguishing one letter from another—shall pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. God's word will be fulfilled, every prophecy. His Word is eternal and sure. Some of the specific commandments may not apply (613 commandments in the Law) but the spirit of the Law, the righteousness of the Law is ongoing. Jesus expands the law of God into a higher level of execution, according to the spirit and intent of the Law. We should continue to teach and uphold God's word in relation to our behavior before Him.

v.20- Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus had an ongoing battle with these religious leaders who constantly challenged his identity, his teaching, and his and the disciples behavior. They were more interested in maintaining their control over men than seeing what God was doing. They were blind to the fact that standing before them was the fulfillment of scripture. They wanted to kill Jesus; wanted to kill the promise they supposedly had been waiting for. In Mathew 15, and Mathew 23, Jesus exposes their hypocrisy before everyone. They concentrated on ritual things, things that asserted their power, or things that made them look good and righteous in the eyes of men. They did not follow the Law according to the spirit of the Law. Their righteousness was of their own making and limited, and would not get them into the kingdom of heaven. We had to be better. We had to have a righteousness that came from God in order to enter into the kingdom.

Pay greater attention to the more important things rather than the little things of God's law.