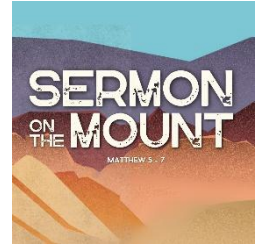


The Sermon on the Mount: Fulfilling the Law

Lesson 4: October 6 & 7

Read Matthew 5:17-20, 48



Sermon Reflection Question: What captured your attention from Sunday's sermon?

Observation & Interpretation Questions:

Matthew 5:17-20 begins a new section of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches about a greater righteousness that fulfills the Torah and Prophets. Jesus makes three unique points that build upon one another:

1. **Point 1:** From v. 17, what does Jesus explicitly say He has *not* come to do and what does He say He *has* come to do?
2. How did Jesus, the Messiah, fulfill the Law?
 - a. The moral law (See Hebrews 4:15)
 - b. The ceremonial law of Old Testament sacrifices (See 1 Peter 1:18-21)
 - c. Old Testament Prophecies (See Luke 24:26-27)

Jesus fulfills the Torah and the Prophets. What are the Torah and the Prophets? The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are called the Torah. The Prophets describe how Israel failed to live by God's wisdom and violated the commands found in the Torah. And yet, failure would not be the end of Israel's story. God was going to be faithful to Israel and bring fulfillment of the Torah and the Prophets to completion in the person of Jesus Christ.

3. **Point 2:** From v. 18-19, what do you learn from Jesus about the Torah and the Prophets and the importance of keeping its commands?

4. How do you view the Old Testament? Do Jesus' words challenge your outlook or attitude toward the Old Testament?
5. **Point 3:** From v. 19-20, how is Jesus redefining the source of righteousness?
6. In what ways are you prone to focus on your own sense of righteousness or performance rather than relying fully on Jesus' fulfillment of the Law and Prophets?
7. What is a specific way that you can display Jesus's righteousness in your life and to others?
8. How does love fulfill the Torah and the Prophets? See Matthew 22:35-40.

Read Matthew 5:48. Jesus says, "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jesus is forming a community of disciples, whose character reflects that of their Creator. The Greek word *teleios* (translated perfect) has a range of meaning:

- "perfect" = without moral flaw (James 3:2)
 - "mature" = grown up
 - 1 Cor. 14:20, "don't be like children, in your thinking become *teleios*"
 - Eph. 4:13, "to become one *teleios* human"
 - Col. 1:28, "so that we can present everyone as *teleios* in the Messiah."
 - "whole/complete" = to fulfill one's purpose (James 1:4; 1 John 4:18)
9. In v. 48, why do you think Jesus calls his disciples to reflect his character?

Jesus is our only source of righteousness as he perfectly fulfilled the Law and the Prophets. He now invites us into a life of transformation by the power of his Spirit.

10. When have you attempted a behavior change but continued to fail again and again? Why does this occur?
11. What is one area where God may be inviting you to rely on Him for a heart change—not just behavior change?
12. Spend some time in prayer and reflection over this week's passage. Repent in areas where you have relied on your own strength. Ask Him today what it looks like to live a life of righteousness.