

Kingdom Living

Studies From The Sermon On The Mount

Jesus, the Law, and Us: Fulfillment, Not Abolishment

Matthew 5:17-20

Matthew 4:17, 23

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the *kingdom of heaven* has come near.”

23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about *the Kingdom*.

- The central theme of the Sermon on the Mount is the Kingdom of Heaven.
- At its heart, the Beatitudes describe the character of Christ Himself and the Kingdom people His Spirit creates.
- The Sermon on the Mount is not a “to-do list” for earning God’s favor; it’s a picture of the grace-filled life of those born again into the Kingdom.

Key Idea: Kingdom Righteousness is Radical Righteousness.

Matthew 5:17-20 (NIV)

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

19 “Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

20 “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

1. JESUS AND THE LAW

Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

- Jesus not only doesn’t abolish the Law, He honors it and fulfills it perfectly.

How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

1. Jesus fulfilled the Law’s messianic predictions.
2. Jesus fulfilled the Law’s requirements through His perfect obedience.

3. Jesus fulfilled the Law's demands through His sacrificial death.

4. Jesus fulfilled the Law by being Jesus.

- Jesus fulfilled the Law and restored it to its original integrity.

Matthew 5:18 (NIV)

"For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

- Not only does Jesus not abolish the Law, but He also teaches the inspiration and immutability of the Old Testament.

Key Lesson: Jesus is the central story of the Bible.

2. CHRISTIANS AND THE LAW

Matthew 5:19 (NIV)

"Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

- Jesus fulfills the Law in believers through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:2-4 (NIV)

Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 (NIV)

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

- Jesus didn't just fulfill the Law FOR US, He fulfills it THROUGH US by the Holy Spirit IN US!

Matthew 5:20 (NIV)

"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

- The righteousness Jesus desires from His people is about quality, not quantity.

Key Takeaway: Jesus didn't lower the standard of God's Word – He fulfilled it. And now, in Him, we can walk in Radical Righteousness.