

Sermon on the Mount

– 5 –

A Greater Righteousness

- These verses are key to understanding the sermon on the mount but also the entirety of Jesus' ministry.
- Jesus fulfills the Law and calls His followers to a deeper righteousness that comes from the heart, not just external obedience.

Matthew 5:17 (ESV) 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.

- Imagine a house under construction.
- God watches over his word to perform it.

Matthew 5:18 (ESV) For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- Truly – absolute certainty in what he is saying.
- "Iota" (Greek: ἰῶτα, Hebrew: י yod) The smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Often used proverbially to refer to something insignificant or tiny.
- "Dot" (Greek: κεραία, "keraia") Refers to tiny strokes or markings in Hebrew letters that distinguish similar-looking characters. This means every detail of God's Word matters.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- Heaven and earth pass away – Repeated in Matthew 24:35.
- End times – destroyed and recreated.
- Prophesied in Isaiah 65 & 66.
- Fulfilled in Revelation 21.

1 John 2:15-17 (ESV) 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

How many messianic prophecies are in the Old Testament? 300-574 verses.

The probability of one person fulfilling even just

- 8 prophecies – 1 in 10^{17} (a hundred quadrillion).
- 48 prophecies – The probability drops to 1 in 10^{157} .
- How many did Jesus fulfill? At least 300 conservatively. The probability of fulfilling 300+ prophecies would likely surpassing 1 in 10^{500} (1 followed by 500 zeros).
- This number is so astronomically small that it is considered statistically impossible.

Matthew 5:19 (ESV) Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- Some people try to water down or ignore difficult teachings.
- He forbids his disciples to ignore the commands of the law and the Prophets, either in their teaching or their own choices.
- Rabbis distinguished between “light” and “weighty” commandments.

Matthew 5:20 (ESV) For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- He is not teaching that you need to keep the commandments to reach heaven.
- This verse makes it clear that human effort isn't good enough.
- Scribes and pharisees are hypocritical religious leaders
- Jesus gives us His righteousness (imputed)