

**THEME: "TORAH FULFILLED & RIGHTEOUSNESS" Matthew 5:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> "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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.

**Four Main Ideas:**

1. Jesus completes (fulfills) everything in the 1<sup>st</sup> Testament
2. Everything in the 1<sup>st</sup> Testament is TRUTH
3. Therefore everything must be obeyed
4. Our obedience must eclipse the 1<sup>st</sup> Testament "experts"

**How Jesus Read the 1<sup>st</sup> Testament (Hebrew Bible):**

Luke 24:25-27, He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

v32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

44-47 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 1:1-3 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

## Various Ways People Read the Bible:

- Superficially – scanning, skimming searching for quotable verses or phrases that can be used as proof texts or spiritual “air fresheners.”
- Formationally – with an open heart to receive something from God on an intuitive, devotional, relational level.
- Informationally – using the historical, grammatical, syntactical tools to know exactly what the text says (exegesis). Only then seeking to interpret the text and understand what it means.
- Canonically – seeking to determine how the text sets or meets a standard that is consistently evident in all the scriptures.
- Imitationally – in keeping with the perspective and interpretations advanced by their preferred teacher, prophet or charismatic leader. \

## “Righteousness”

*“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.” Mt. 5:20*

Dictionaries define *righteousness* as “behavior that is morally justifiable or right.” Such behavior is characterized by accepted standards of morality, justice, virtue, or uprightness.

The Bible’s standard of human righteousness is God’s own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word. Thus, God’s laws, as given in the Bible, both describe His own character and constitute the plumb line by which He measures human righteousness.

**Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

**Romans 5:20** The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more...

**Romans 7:7-13** What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead. <sup>9</sup> Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. <sup>10</sup> I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. <sup>12</sup> So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

<sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.