

**DISCUSSION FOCUS**

Read (Primary Text): Matt 5:17–20

Supporting Texts: Matthew 5–7 ; Exodus 19:7-8; Luke 24:27; Heb 7:27; 9:12; 10:10; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:9–20; 5:12; Matt 22:37–40.

**MAIN IDEA: Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. He fulfills the requirements of God on our behalf, thus making us righteous in God's eyes.**

**OBSERVE**

Read Matthew 5:1–20. Where is Jesus giving this “sermon”? *Matthew 5:1 indicates that He went up on a mountain to teach because the crowds were so large.*

Who is Jesus primarily aiming His teaching? *Matthew 5:1 indicates that He is teaching His disciples but His words are obviously in ear-shot of many others (Matt 4:25).*

**INTERPRET**

In light of Exodus 19:7-8, what parallels do you notice between Jesus and Moses? *Moses went up on a mountain and brought down the law to the people just as Jesus went up on a mountain to teach the crowds. \*\*Note in discussion that it is not accidental that Matthew includes this sermon since one of his aims in writing his book is to present Jesus as the new and better Moses (the lawgiver and mediator).*

Considering Luke 24:27, what is Jesus referring to when He refers to “the Law and the Prophets” and what does He mean that He did not come to destroy but to fulfill them in verse 17? *Jesus is referencing the entire Old Testament (Jews divided them into the Law, Prophets, and Writings. The Law and Prophets was an expression used by Jews to refer to the entirety of what we call the Old Testament. Jesus clarifies that the law does not go away but He fulfills it. He keeps it perfectly and everything in the Old Testament points to Him.*

What do vv. 18–19 say about the importance of keeping the law and how does that fit with the idea that Jesus has already fulfilled it? *Although Jesus has fulfilled the Old Testament on our behalf, it does not mean that we do not strive to keep it since He commands it in verse 19. His “once for all” sacrifice on the cross (Heb 7:27; 9:12; 10:10) renders the need to abide by the ceremonial/sacrificial aspects of the law unnecessary. Not only is Jesus the new/better Moses but He is also the ultimate High Priest.*

Verse 20 speaks of righteousness surpassing that of the Scribes and Pharisees. What are your impressions of the Scribes and Pharisees? *Most of us have a picture of these groups being hypocritical so this surpassing doesn't seem as impossible to us, however, the original hearers of the sermon thought of them as the most religious people around. Having righteous acts greater than theirs would be impossible.*

According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, what righteousness is Jesus talking about then? *The righteousness Jesus is talking about is not from us but from Him as He gives it to us.*

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## RESPOND

How well do you know the Law and the Prophets (Old Testament)? How about the New Testament?

After reading Romans 3:9-20 and 5:12, consider: what have you been basing entrance into the kingdom of heaven on and how does it measure up to what Jesus says in Matthew? *It is only through perfect obedience that one can base it on one's own works. We know this is impossible and we are already born with a sin nature. Thank God (literally), Jesus has fulfilled the law on our behalf.*

## APPLY

If Jesus does not destroy the Old Testament but fulfills it, how does this help us understand the rest of the Sermon on the Mount (this is summed up in Matthew 22:37-40? *Jesus teaches the heart behind the law or the original intent of the law: 1) Love for God; 2) Love for neighbor.*

How does this passage give us hope for entering the Kingdom of Heaven? How can it equip us to give hope to others we know?