

Jesus & the Old Testament

Gospel of Matthew, Part 23

Matthew 5:17-19

Sermon Outline

I. The Wholeness of God's Word.

- A. Jesus affirms the Bible's reliability.
- B. Jesus affirms the Bible's continuity.

II. The Fulfillment of God's Word

A. What does it mean that Jesus fulfills God's Word?

- 1. He "fills it full."

The Law and the Prophets were pencil sketches, Jesus Christ was the painting. All the details of those pencil sketches would be fulfilled in the painting. The painting filled those sketches full. –Haddon Robinson

B. How does Jesus fulfill God's Word?

- 1. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Bible's promises and prophecies. (2 Cor 1:20, Gal. 3:16, Mt. 3:17)
- 2. Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel, a remnant of one.
- 3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the tabernacle and temple.
- 4. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Bible's holidays, festivals and ceremonial laws.
- 5. Jesus is the fulfillment all the Bible's offices: prophet, priest, king and judge.
- 6. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Bible's sacrifices. (1 Cor. 5:7)
- 7. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Bible's types and shadows.
- 8. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law by his obedience.

C. Why does it matter that Jesus fulfills God's Word?

- 1. Jesus is the **lens** through which to read the Bible.
- 2. Jesus is the **key** to understanding the Bible.
- 3. Jesus lived the life that we should have lived and died the death that we deserve.

III. The Authority of God's Word.

- A. Jesus affirms the necessity of Christ-centered obedience.
- B. Jesus affirms the necessity of Christ-centered teaching.

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. Read through Matthew 5:1-20. Locate the change in tenses from the third to the second to the first person. What is Jesus doing when he moves to the 1st person?
2. Compare 5:17 with 7:12. What is common to both verses? What comes before 5:17? What comes after 7:12? What do these "bracket" verses indicate about what's in between?
3. What is the modern/post modern American's view of authority and truth? What do they think about the Bible's authority?
4. Why does Jesus address and discuss his relationship to the Old Testament? What might those around Jesus have thought about him? How do you think Jesus was different than the stereotypical spiritual leader of the day?
5. Jesus was different than the stereotypes of his day. What are the stereotypes pinned on Christians today? How did Jesus shatter stereotypes? How can we shatter stereotypes?
6. How does Jesus affirm the Bible's reliability? How does Jesus affirm the Bible's continuity? What does the Bible's reliability and continuity reflect about God? What do these mean for our lives?
7. How do you read the OT? What holds the Bible together for you?
8. What does it mean that Jesus "fulfills" God's Word? What was the illustration used to explain what this word "fulfill" means?
9. How does Jesus fulfill God's Word? Use the list in the outline and talk through it? Do you understand these concepts? Do you have questions about how this works?
10. What difference does it make that Jesus fulfills God's Word? How does the Bible come alive? How does it change the way we read the Bible? How is Jesus the "Big story" to which all the smaller stories point?
11. What does Jesus say about the authority of God's Word in our lives? Is he speaking of the Bible's commands or his own commands in v. 19?