

Fulfillment
Matthew 5:17 – 20
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: Jesus fulfills the law and teaches us to do the same.

Introduction

How are we to deal with the Old Testament law when we see Jesus teaching us some things in the New Testament that are just as important if not more important? Scholars have been arguing for centuries over how to deal with the Old Testament now that the New Testament has come. You hear people all the time talking about being “New Testament Christians” instead of “Old Testament Christians.” What does that even mean? How does Jesus fulfill the Old Testament law? Let’s take a look at how Jesus talks about fulfillment in the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 5:17-18

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 say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- I.** Jesus fulfills the law and prophets.
 - A He does not destroy them.
 - B He completes and enhances them.

Matthew 5:19-20

19 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. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- II.** Jesus calls us to teach and do them.
 - A Practicing the laws determines greatness.
 - B Righteousness must come from God.

Conclusion

Jesus shows us how he fulfills the Old Testament law and prophets. He will deepen the spirit of the law rather than focusing on the letter of the law like the Pharisees. He will call us to a deeper walk with him as we follow his high standards through obedience and the power of the Holy

Spirit. He fulfills the Old Testament law by calling us to follow the spirit of the line our hearts rather than outwardly following the letter of the lot.