



DENIA

COMMUNITY CHURCH

# “Jesus, Scripture, & True Righteousness”

Matthew 5:17–20

John Brown

# Bookends to the Body of the Sermon on the Mount

5.17 “Do not think that I came to abolish **the Law or the Prophets**; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

7.12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is **the Law and the Prophets**.

# Jesus, Scripture, and True Righteousness (Matt. 5:17–20)

**Jesus Came to Fulfill Scripture (5:17–18)**

**Jesus Commands Deference to Scripture (5:19)**

**Jesus Construes True Righteousness (5:20)**

# Jesus Came to Fulfill Scripture (Matt. 5:17–18)

**<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**

# Jesus Fulfills the Prophecies of Scripture

- 1.22 All **this took place to fulfill** what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.”
- 2.15 **This was to fulfill** what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”
- 2.23 **This was to fulfill** what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

# Jesus Fulfills the Prophecies of Scripture

- 4.14 **This was to fulfill** what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:  
15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea,  
beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> The people who were  
sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the  
land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.”
- 8.17 **This was to fulfill** what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “He  
Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.”

# Jesus Fulfills the Prophecies of Scripture

12.17 **This was to fulfill** what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:  
18 “Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 19 “He will not quarrel, nor cry out; Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. 20 “A battered reed He will not break off, And a smoldering wick He will not put out, Until He leads justice to victory. 21 “And in His name the Gentiles will hope.”



# Jesus Fulfills the Prophecies of Scripture

13.35 **This was to fulfill** what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world.”

21.4 **This took place to fulfill** what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold your King is coming to you, Gentle, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

Mt 26.56 All this has taken place **to fulfill** the Scriptures of the prophets.

# Jesus Fulfills the Requirements of Scripture

... You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18b–19; cf. John 1:29, 36)

<sup>15</sup> We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

# Jesus Fulfills the Requirements of Scripture

**“Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” (Matthew 3:15)**

**<sup>19</sup> For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:18–19)**

# Jesus Fulfills the Requirements of Scripture

The best interpretation of these difficult verses says that Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets in that they point to him, and he is their fulfillment. The antithesis is not between “abolish” and “keep” but between “abolish” and “fulfill.” For Matthew, then, it is not the question of Jesus’ relation to the law that is in doubt but rather its relation to him!” ... Jesus presents himself as the eschatological goal of the OT and thereby its sole authoritative interpreter, the one through whom alone the OT finds its valid continuity and significance.

D. A. Carson, “Matthew,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Matthew–Mark (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 9:175, 177.

# Jesus Came to Fulfill Scripture (Matt. 5:17–18)

**<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.**

# Jesus Commands Deference to Scripture (Matt. 5:19)

**Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

# Jesus Construes True Righteousness (Matt. 5:20)

**For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**







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