

## **Sermon Guide: The Sermon on the Mount:**

### **Fulfillment of the Law | Samuel Voo | April 28, 2024**

#### **Summary**

In this message, Samuel Voo explores a critical section of the sermon on the mount, 5:17-20, which deals specifically with Jesus' understanding of the law and which serves to provide an interpretational framework for the rest of Jesus' sermon in Chapters 5 - 7.

Sam begins by addressing the concept of fulfillment in verse 17. Jesus emphatically states that He did not come to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfill them. Jesus does this in two ways: first, by bringing to fruition the entire narrative of the Scriptures; and second, by bringing to completion God's intention of connecting the external requirements of the Law with the internal disposition of our hearts.

Moving to verse 18, Sam discusses the enduring relevance of the law. Jesus underscores that not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the law until all is accomplished. This statement emphasizes the permanence and significance of the law, which remains relevant until the end of time. It's a reminder that the law is not obsolete but is fulfilled and fully expressed in Jesus' life and teachings. In verse 19, the focus shifts to the kingdom of heaven. This concept is central to Jesus' message and mission. The kingdom of heaven is breaking into this world through Jesus' actions and teachings. It represents the reign of God's will on earth, as it is in heaven, characterized by justice, peace, and righteousness. Verse 20 brings us to the topic of righteousness. Jesus challenges us to a righteousness that surpasses that of the Pharisees and the scribes. This righteousness is not merely an external adherence to rules but about a transformation that aligns our thoughts, attitudes, and actions with the will of God. It's a call to internalize the law in a way that it shapes our very being, leading to a life that reflects God's holiness and love.

Sam concludes the sermon with the analogy of a carpenter's square and the importance of the right angle in construction. Building to the "rightness" of a right angle ensures stability and strength; this is the same as God's "righteousness" which is God's standard for our lives. Where in our lives might God be challenging us to live more fully in line with his purposes?

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Fulfillment of the Law: Jesus' declaration of fulfilling the law is a statement about how God wants us to interpret his law: by connecting the external behaviour with the internal disposition of our hearts. [\[04:41\]](#)
2. The Permanence of the Law: The law remains vital and relevant, as Jesus emphasized its permanence until the end of time. This challenges any notion that the New Covenant renders the

Old Testament obsolete. Instead, it invites us to view Jesus' teachings as the fullest expression of the law's intent and purpose. [\[15:20\]](#)

3. The Present Reality of the Kingdom of Heaven: The kingdom of heaven is not just a future hope but a present reality initiated by Jesus. It challenges us to live out the values of this kingdom here and now, influencing how we interact with the world around us. This perspective transforms our daily living, prioritizing God's will over worldly values. [\[18:34\]](#)

### **Bible Reading:**

1. Matthew 5 - 7 (ESV)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus states He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. What does it mean to fulfill something in this context?
2. How does Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:18 about not a single letter of the Law passing away until all is accomplished challenge our attitudes towards the Law's relevance today?
3. How can we understand the type of righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees as mentioned in Matthew 5:20?

### **Going Deeper**

1. Reflect on your daily actions: In what ways can you practice a righteousness that goes beyond just following rules, focusing instead on transforming your heart and attitudes?
2. Considering the enduring relevance of the Law, as mentioned in Matthew 5:18, what is one Old Testament commandment you will meditate on this week to understand how it applies to your life today?
3. Choose one aspect of the law that you find challenging. How can you seek accountability within your community to grow in this area?