**Sermon on the Mount 2 // Matthew 5:17-20 // 4.6.15**

**Intro: The Structure of the Teaching**

 Setting: 4:17-5:2, 7:28-8:1

 Intro, Part 1: 5:3-16

 Intro, Part 2: 5:17-20

 Body, Part 1: 5:21-5:48 Body Inclusio: 5:17 + 7:12 (“Law and Prophets”)

 Body, Part 2: 6:1-7:12 Point: Jesus “Fulfills” the Law and Prophets

See also 5:20 + 5:48 The True Righteousness (inner, not only outer; complete as God, not partial)

(James 1:17, 1 Jn 1:5)

**Matthew 5:17-20: Understanding who Jesus is and what he’s doing by teaching**

 **17** He is not “abolishing” (doing away with) the authority of the OT, not saying it’s no longer valid

But “fulfilling” – “It is my role to bring into being that to which they have pointed forward.”

 ***Immediate Applications:***

1. You need to realize that Jesus has a history.
2. You need to realize that his history is written in the OT.
3. You can’t really understand Jesus unless you see this truth.
4. He is not doing away with the older writings, he is *ratifying* them. He’s establishing their authority for good.
5. Repent! (4:17) – stop defining Jesus yourself, and allow him to define himself to you…

(this was a temptation for them *then* (“He’s a Rabbi!”), and it is for us *now* (“He’s a moral teacher!”)

 **18** He confirms that the written word of God will remain authoritative until the *end*, when it has all happened, come into being. See **Revelation 20:11, 21:1-6**

 **19** so we are unwise to “loose” the commands 🡪 “undermine their authority by teaching that they can now be ignored.” We still see that it all points us to Jesus, and all has value for showing us the heart of God. How they should govern our authority is determined by how they are fulfilled by Jesus and how they relate to Him.

*“does and teaches”* to correctly value and understand what we must do in relation to every command, and to live and teach that way. *“Keeping the law as Jesus now interprets it.”*

**20** The exceeding righteousness (“in a different league”) than mere rule keeping. **see 5:48**

 This is what he explains in 5:2-11, and 5:21-7:12.

**Summing up:**

1. Jesus himself lived this way.
2. Jesus died for all those of us who didn’t.
3. Jesus sends us his spirit, so that we can begin the journey towards this kind of humanity.
4. A true disciple learns the teachings of Christ, and the entire Bible, in order to “do and teach” the things Christ taught—in order to become the kind of people he died to create.

**See 13:52, 28:20**

1. Truly understanding Jesus: Who he is: the one who is bringing the fulfillment to all the things God promised and commanded in the centuries before Jesus came. The one who is teaching the true way to please God. And the one who is embodying it himself, and dying and rising again to create many people who are on their way to embodying it as well.

Repent: Let Jesus define himself and show you what actually pleases God. Begin to let him shape and guide your life.

5 17 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

5 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

7 12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.