



June 15, 2025  
Mark Mitchell  
Matthew 5:17-20

## Introduction

This week's message explores Jesus' relationship to the Old Testament Law and how God's Word remains unchanging even as everything else around us shifts. Mark Mitchell reminds us that while churches and culture experience constant change, some things never change—particularly God's Word and our commitment to it. Through Matthew 5:17-20, we discover that Jesus didn't come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, calling us to a righteousness that surpasses external rule-keeping and transforms our hearts. Continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount, we see how Jesus' teaching with authority (as we discussed last week) includes His authoritative interpretation of the Law itself. The message challenges us to understand that Jesus raised the bar impossibly high, not so we would despair, but so we would depend entirely on His righteousness credited to us and His Spirit working within us.

## Key Texts:

Matthew 5:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ezekiel 36:27

## Icebreaker

If you could make one household rule that everyone in your family (or roommates) had to follow for a week, what would it be and why?

## Discussion Questions

1. **Read Matthew 5:17-20 together as a group.** Jesus says He came to "fulfill" the Law and the Prophets, not abolish them. Mark used a jigsaw puzzle analogy—Jesus is the picture on the box that the Old Testament was always pointing toward. How does this change how you read Old Testament stories or laws?

2. Last week we talked about Jesus teaching "with authority" unlike other teachers. Here in verses 17-20, we see Jesus making authoritative claims about the Law itself. How does Jesus' authority over Scripture challenge or comfort you?
  3. In verse 20, Jesus says our righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The Pharisees had calculated hundreds of specific rules to follow. But Jesus isn't talking about degree of righteousness—He's talking about a different kind. What's the difference between external rule-keeping and the heart transformation that comes through apprenticeship to Jesus?
  4. Mark mentioned how we struggle to balance grace and truth—some people use truth harshly while others minimize difficult teachings. How do you see this tension playing out in your own life or in the church?
  5. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Ezekiel 36:27 together.** Jesus calls us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect—setting an impossibly high standard that only points us to depend on His righteousness and His Spirit's work in us. Mark shared Charles Spurgeon's response about what difference Jesus had made in his life: "I now sweep under the doormats." What are some "under the doormat" areas in your life where Jesus' Spirit might be working to transform you from the inside out?
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## Key Takeaways

- Jesus came to fulfill the Law and Prophets, not abolish them
  - God's Word is enduring and unchangeable, even when everything else changes
  - Jesus calls for heart righteousness, not just external rule-keeping
  - The impossible standard points us to depend on Christ's righteousness and His Spirit
  - We are loved because Jesus died for us, not because we keep all the rules
  - Transformation happens through God's Spirit working in us, not our own effort
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## Notes