

Matthew 5:17-18: 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.

Intro: In the last two sermons in Jesus' sermon on the mount, we focused on Jesus' declarations of who we are as followers of Jesus Christ: You are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the world! And Jesus encourages us to salt the earth and light up the world with our good deeds, righteousness, love, and preaching of the Gospel!

Today Jesus reminds us that our identity, calling, and purpose is not out of step with all that has gone before Him (before His incarnation and birth!). He and His mission, and we and our mission – they are perfectly in step (in harmony) with all that the law and the prophets contain and proclaim – they're the same for the fame of God's name!

And what do the law and prophets contain and proclaim? They contain and proclaim Him: Jesus Christ! How are we to live the blessed life described in the beatitudes? How can we be salt and light in the world? By looking to Jesus; knowing Jesus; trusting Jesus: the Law and the Prophets (all of the Old Testament) is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and it's by looking to Him; knowing Him; trusting Him; treasuring Him, and obeying Him that we will be salt and light!

1. Jesus Did Not Come To Abolish The Law Or The Prophets

Matthew 5:17: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them

a. Jesus came as the new and better lawgiver: Remember Jesus is living out the perfect life Adam and Israel should have lived.

As Israel was baptized in the Red Sea, so Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan.

After Israel's baptism in the Red Sea, they were led out into the wilderness and tested.

Like Israel, Jesus was lead out into the wilderness to be tested and tempted by the devil, but Jesus conquered!

Like Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God, Jesus goes up on a mountain to give God's law!

Matthew 5:1-2: Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them

Jesus is the new and better Moses: John 13:34: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: **just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another. (Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets!)

No one ever loved like Jesus loved!: Wept over Lazarus; Loved the Rich Young Ruler; Wept over the wicked city Jerusalem; Loved the sick and healed; Made the blind to see and deaf hear; Raised the dead; Loved unfaithful disciples; Loved His mother!

Jesus loved His unfaithful disciples

John 15:13: Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.

But Jesus died for His enemies! John 1:11: He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Even those closest to Him all forsook Him; Peter denied Him three times with swearing and cursing! You!

Jesus: Love like me! Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, and pray those who persecute you!

b. Everything Jesus taught was in harmony with the Old Testament Scriptures: The Pharisees accused Jesus of teaching what was contrary to the Scriptures (blasphemy, breaking the Sabbath, etc.) - all false accusations!

1) Turn the other cheek: Matthew 5:39: But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.
Lamentations 3:30: let him give his cheek to the one who strikes

2) Give to those who ask: Matthew 5:42: Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.
Deuteronomy 15:8: you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

3) Do not look with lust: Matthew 5:28: But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
Job 31:1: I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

4) Love your enemies: Matthew 5:43-44: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
Job 31:29-30: If I have rejoiced at my enemy's misfortune or gloated over the trouble that came to him - I have not allowed my mouth to sin by invoking a curse against his life
Exodus 23:4-5: If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.
Proverbs 25:21: If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink

Lloyd-Jones (Two basic principles): In the first, in verses 17 and 18, He says that everything He is going to teach is in absolute harmony with the entire teaching of the OT Scriptures. There is nothing in this teaching which in any way contradicts them. The second proposition, which He lays down in verses 19 and 20, is that this teaching of His which is in such harmony with the OT is in complete disharmony with, and an utter contradiction of, the teaching of the Pharisees and Scribes.

c. Jesus loves the Scriptures: The phrase "Law or/and Prophets" is a way of saying the Old Testament Scriptures.

- **Matt 7:12:** So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law & the Prophets
- **Matt 11:13:** For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John
- **Matt 22:37-40:** And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (**7 other places!**)

Luke 24:26-27: Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" & beginning with Moses & all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

d. Jesus did not come to abolish the Scriptures: Matthew 5:17: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them

Abolish: To destroy, to tear down, to obliterate, to do away with: **Matthew 26:61:** This man said, 'I am able to **destroy** the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'

e. The Old Testament Scriptures are for us now: Michael Kruger on Andy Stanley's terrible false teaching: (Why We Can't Unhitch from the Old Testament): We have been on the wrong track, and we need to change if we're going to reach the next generation with the gospel. What is this wrong track? It's that modern Christianity relies too much on the Old Testament. The problem with the modern church is "our incessant habit of reaching back into the old covenant concepts, teachings, sayings, and narratives". As a result, Christianity has lost its mojo. These vestiges of the old covenant have led, Stanley says, to a variety of vices in the church: "prosperity gospel,

the crusades, anti-Semitism, legalism, exclusivism, judgmentalism," and more. Thus, Stanley offers a clear call to church leaders: "Would you consider unhitching your teaching of what it means to follow Jesus from all things old covenant?". This is necessary because "when it comes to stumbling blocks to faith, the Old Testament is right up there at the top of the list". Put simply, when people struggle to believe, "the Old Testament is usually the culprit".

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Jesus, Paul, Matthew, and the whole N.T. cite extensively from O.T.: John 10:35: Scripture cannot be broken

Romans 15:4: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

f. If we trust and love Jesus, we must hold to the same view of the Scriptures that Jesus does: We must love the Scriptures like Jesus does! We must study the Scriptures; know the Scriptures; read the Scriptures; and see how all of Scripture points us to Jesus Christ! (Bible reading, Bible study, Bible teaching on Sundays)

g. We must never set up Jesus, the Word made flesh, in opposition to God's revelation in the Scriptures:

Kevin DeYoung: In one brilliant paragraph here in verses 17-20, Jesus establishes the two most foundational elements we all need for Christian maturity: namely, to be absolutely certain of the authority of Scripture and the authority of Christ. And I hope you know that the two are not opposed. If you want to find Christ, you run to the Bible. And when you run to the Bible you go there to find Christ. How often have I heard from people: "Well, you're a sort of "word" Christian, lowercase "w." I'm a "Word" Christian, capitol "W." Jesus!" As if anything in the Bible would allow us to make such a false dichotomy. There is a reason that Jesus is revealed to be the Word – because He is the divine disclosure. The Word inscripturated and the Word in fleshed are both divine revelation. They are both from God. They are both utterly authoritative. Both enduring and unchanging. And both cannot be broken. Worship Christ. Follow the Scriptures. Without these two things we will be least or we will be nothing in the Kingdom of God.

2. Jesus Came To Fulfill The Law And The Prophets

Matthew 5:17: 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.

Luke 24:26-27, 44-48: Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses & all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself . . . ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

In your teaching, get to Christ! - *The Gospel Story Bible* (Noah's Ark)

In Genesis, He's the Seed of the woman Who crushed the head of the serpent - the Lion of the tribe of Judah!

In Exodus, He's the Passover Lamb Who taketh away the sins of the world!

In Leviticus, He's the great High Priest Who offered Himself as a sacrifice for His people!

In Numbers, He's the Rock struck by God so that we might have living water, and He's the One lifted up like the serpent in the wilderness so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life!

In Deuteronomy, He's the Prophet like unto Moses Who speaks God's Word and is God's Word!

In Joshua, He's the Captain of our salvation Who finally brings us into the promised land: safe, saved, and satisfied!

In Judges, He's the good and better Judge and Lawgiver!

In Ruth, He's the Kinsman Redeemer!

In 1 and 2 Samuel, He's the true and better King Who never sinned, was always faithful, and never needed to repent!

In Kings and Chronicles, He's the King of kings and LORD of lords!

In Ezra, He's the faithful Priest and Scribe Who loved God's Word and wept over God's rebellious people!

In Nehemiah, He's the Cleanser of God's temple and the Builder of God's Church!

In Esther, He's the true and better Mordecai Who saves His people from eternal destruction and more than conquers all of their and His enemies!

In Job, He's the blameless and ever-living Redeemer Who suffered for His people!

In Psalms, He's the Lord our Shepherd so that we lack no good thing - He's the Good Shepherd Who laid down His life for His sheep!

In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He's the everlasting Wisdom of God Who's always been and always will be!

In Song of Solomon, He's our true love and glorious Bridegroom - the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valleys – the pure, perfect, and beautiful Lover of our soul like no one else!

In Isaiah, He's the One born of a virgin, Immanuel, God with us, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and the Suffering Servant Who was crushed and wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities but then rose up from the dead!

In Jeremiah and Lamentations, He's the weeping Prophet Who ushers in the New Covenant by His blood!

In Ezekiel, He's the great vision of the glory of God!

In Daniel, He's the fourth Man in the fiery furnace whose appearance was like a Son of the gods!

In Hosea, He's the eternal Husband, forever married and faithful to the sinful backslider!

In Joel, He's the baptizer with the Holy Spirit!

In Amos, He's the Judgment-Bearer Who silences the roar of God's wrath so that we might have everlasting mercy!

In Obadiah, He's the Savior and Deliverer!

In Jonah, He's the faithful Missionary to the nations Who was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth but then rose up from the dead to live forevermore!

In Micah, He's the One born in Bethlehem Whose origin is from everlasting Who shall shepherd God's flock, be our peace, and be great to the ends of the earth!

In Nahum, He's the One Who drank the cup of God's indignation and judgment for sinners so that we might be citizens of the everlasting, heavenly city that will never fall!

In Habakkuk, He's all we have - He's the LORD God we rejoice in when all else is lost and destroyed!

In Zephaniah, He's the Man raised from the dead, appointed to be the judge on the day of the LORD, Who is the LORD, mighty to save, and Who will take great delight in you, quiet you with His love, and rejoice over you with loud shouts and singing!

In Haggai, He's the restorer of the line of David, the Temple of God Who makes us temples of God, and He's the Desire of all nations!

In Zechariah, He's that Fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins, opened in the house of David to cleanse from all sin and from all uncleanness!

In Malachi, He's the Sun of Righteousness Who shall rise with healing in His wings!

JMac: He is the theme of the Old Testament; every bit of it is His story. **GOSPEL!**

Christ Won't Abolish But Fulfill
Accomplishing God's Perfect Will
No Jot Or Dot Will Pass Until
All In The Law Is Done And Still
He Died For Wicked Men Would Kill
He Suffered For Our Sinful Thrill
Then Rose New Life In Us Instill
As Salt And Light Up On A Hill
The Law Is In Our Hearts With Zeal
In Christ The Law We Shall Fulfill!