

(Matthew 5:17 – 20)

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Guiding Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean by the Law and the Prophets?
2. Why would they think He would come to destroy it?
3. How did He fulfill it?
4. How could their righteousness surpass that of the Pharisees?
5. What did Jesus think and teach about the Law?
6. How are we to view it?
7. What are we to do with the law?
8. Does it matter?

Points:

1. Jesus affirms the authority of Scripture.
2. Jesus fulfills everything the Law anticipated.
3. True righteousness is found in Christ and lived out through His followers, not merely in external rule-keeping, like the Pharisees, but from a heart transformed by God's grace and love.

Notes: _____