

WORD ALIVE | WEEK 11

Jesus Fulfilled the Law - So What Does He Expect From Me?

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:17–6:4

“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.”

— Matthew 5:17

THE BIG QUESTION

If Christians are saved by grace and are no longer under the Old Testament Law, what does Jesus mean when He says He did **not** come to abolish the Law?

The key is the word:

FULFILL.

Jesus didn't discard everything that came before Him. **He brought it to its intended fulfillment.**

1. THE LAW WAS ALWAYS POINTING TO JESUS

The Law and the Prophets were pointing toward something—or more accurately, **Someone.**

The sacrifices point toward Jesus.

The promises point toward Jesus.

Our need for righteousness points toward Jesus.

God's justice and mercy point toward Jesus.

Our need for a Savior points toward Jesus.

Jesus is the fulfillment of what came before Him.

Think of a bud becoming a flower.

When a bud blooms, it hasn't been destroyed. It has become what it was always intended to become.

Jesus is the fully bloomed flower.

In Him, we see what the Law and the Prophets were ultimately pointing toward.

2. JESUS FULFILLS THE LAW FOR US

Jesus perfectly fulfilled the righteousness we could never achieve for ourselves.

Through faith in Him, **His righteousness is credited to us.**

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

— **Galatians 3:27**

We don't stand before God desperately trying to manufacture enough righteousness.

We put on Christ.

Also read: Romans 4:22–5:1

3. JESUS REVEALS KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS IN US

Jesus fulfills the Law **FOR us**, but then He shows us what the righteousness of His Kingdom looks like **IN us**.

That's why He addresses more than outward behavior in the Sermon on the Mount.

He talks about:

- anger
- lust
- honesty
- retaliation
- forgiveness
- loving our enemies
- generosity

Jesus isn't simply giving us a harder checklist.

He is showing us what a transformed heart looks like.

And we cannot produce that transformation through human effort.

We need a **new heart**, the righteousness of Jesus and the power of the **Holy Spirit**.

4. LOVE FULFILLS THE LAW

Romans 13 gives us a beautiful summary:

“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

— **Romans 13:10**

Love is the law—or **rule of life—of the Kingdom.**

But Kingdom love isn't easy.

- Loving when we've been hurt is hard.
- Forgiving is hard.
- Refusing to retaliate is hard.
- Loving our enemies is hard.
- Not coveting our neighbor's blessings is hard.

Jesus knows.

He lived it perfectly, and He has given us His Holy Spirit to enable us to live like Him.

THE 35,000-FOOT VIEW

Jesus fulfilled the Law FOR us.

He accomplished what we never could and gives us His righteousness.

Jesus transforms the heart WITHIN us.

- Through new birth and the Holy Spirit, He gives us a new heart capable of desiring His ways.

Jesus now teaches us how people with new hearts LIVE.

- We fulfill the law of love by learning to love God and people as Jesus does.

Jesus fulfilled what we never could.

Jesus gives us His righteousness.

Jesus gives us a new heart.

Jesus gives us His Spirit.

And then Jesus teaches us how people with new hearts live.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Am I treating Jesus' teachings as ideals to admire—or truths I actually expect the Holy Spirit to help me live?

What teaching from the Sermon on the Mount do I tend to skim over because it feels too difficult?

2. Where is Jesus addressing my heart, not merely my behavior?

Consider your anger, thought life, desires, honesty, relationships, forgiveness and reactions when someone wrongs you.

What might the Holy Spirit be revealing beneath your outward behavior?

3. Where have I substituted rule keeping for heart transformation?

Ask:

“Lord, am I trying to appear righteous in an area where You actually want to change my heart?”

4. Who is difficult for me to love right now?

Ask Jesus:

“What would Your love look like through me toward this person?”

5. Where am I trying harder instead of depending on the Holy Spirit?

Pray:

“Holy Spirit, produce in me what I cannot manufacture for myself.”

6. What would change if I truly believed I was clothed in Christ's righteousness?

Am I approaching God from acceptance and gratitude—or constantly wondering whether I've done enough?

7. What would my community look like if I actually lived the Sermon on the Mount?

Consider your marriage, family, church, workplace, friendships, neighborhood and even your online conversations.

Kingdom righteousness is personal, but it is never merely private.

8. What is ONE concrete act of Kingdom love I can practice this week?

Don't leave this lesson only with something you understand.

Leave with something you will obey.

CONTINUE YOUR STUDY

Matthew 5:17–6:4

Romans 4:22–5:1

Romans 13:8–14

Galatians 3:27

Recommended Resource

***Matthew For You: God with Us* — Tim Chester**

Tim Chester's commentary is an accessible resource for studying Matthew and understanding Jesus' teaching about life in His Kingdom.

Amazon:

<https://a.co/d/082Kf66q>

REMEMBER THIS:

What was the Law always pointing toward, and what does life look like now that the One it was pointing toward has come?

The answer to both is Jesus.