

The Substance of Christ's Message
Christ Fulfills the Law
AM Service **Matthew 5:17-20** **May 27, 2018**

Introduction

Jesus and His Ministry

The Beatitudes

The Believer's Circle of Influence

The Substance of Christ's Message

Why is this the heart of Jesus' message?

Christ begins by telling us what not to think and what we should know.

1. Do not think I came

“destroy”

2. I came to fulfill

“fulfill”

3. What is not included in this verse?

Christ then emphasizes the enduring authority of all Scripture.

Can we violate God's law?

Do you have a deeper, more radical holiness than the Pharisees?

How does true righteousness come?

1. We can seek to destroy the Law (v. 17a).

- a. The Pharisees thought Jesus was doing this.
- b. Not only in His authority, but also in His *activity*, Jesus seemed to defy the Law.
- c. Yet, it was the Pharisees who were destroying the Law!
- d. Jesus made it clear that He had come to honor the Law and help God's people love it, learn it, and live it.
- e. Don't legalistically adhere to the external law and destroy the law.

2. We can seek to fulfill the Law (v. 17b).

- a. Jesus Christ fulfilled God's Law in every area of His life.
- b. Jesus also fulfilled the Law in His teaching.
- c. But Jesus, in His death and resurrection, especially fulfilled the Law.
- d. Jesus did not destroy the Law by fighting it; He destroyed it by *fulfilling* it!
- e. How can we fulfill the Law?

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery