

# SERMON *on the* MOUNT

## Righteous

Matthew 5:17-20

### Jesus is the Anticipated Promise

*“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. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

Matthew 5:17-18

### Jesus is the Righteousness-Provider

*“For I tell you that unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:20

Christianity is the only faith system in which righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

The demands of the Law are \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.

The hopes of the Prophets \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

## Sermon on the Mount: Righteous

Matthew 5:17-20

Questions from Sermon on March 8, 2026

### Getting to Know Me

1. What kind of a student were you growing up? Do you remember a time when your teacher graded on a curve and, if so, what do you remember about it?
2. How was your heart stirred by the baptism testimonies?

### Digging Deeper

3. What question, insight or challenge came up for you during Sunday's sermon?
4. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What did Jesus mean by saying he came not to abolish the Law and Prophets, but to fulfill them?
5. What other examples or scriptures can you think of that show Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament hopes and expectations?
6. Jesus says our righteousness must surpass that of the Pharisees. Why would this have shocked his listeners? What would your reaction have been if you were sitting on that hillside, listening to Jesus' words?
7. Read Matthew 5:19 & James 2:14-19. How does James echo Jesus' emphasis that faith is not just believing, but doing?

8. If God's kingdom is already here but not yet fully realized, how should that affect how we live today? What should it look like for us to live under the rule of God in our lives *now*?
9. In Matthew 5, Jesus is drawing a straight line from the Law which demonstrates our inability to earn righteousness and his free offer of righteousness. Read Romans 5:20-6:4 and consider these questions to explore this a little deeper:
  - How does this passage help you understand the connection between law and righteousness?
  - How does this passage show the connection between our freely-received righteousness and new life?
  - How does baptism illustrate this righteousness given to us through Christ?

### Making it Personal

10. Which parts of scripture have you been tempted to ignore or set aside, and why?
11. According to Matthew 5:18, God's Word lasts forever. How highly do you value scripture in shaping your life?
12. Putting it all together, how will you apply these truths in your life and live in righteousness this week?

### Prayer

Read Psalm 119:33-34 and pray together for the Lord to teach you to walk in the new life you were given, practicing what we believe.

*We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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The hopes of the Prophets **POINT** to Jesus.

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