



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: A Deeper Righteousness**

**Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**

**Scriptures: Matthew 5:17-20**

### **The Fulfillment of the Law**

**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. **18** 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. **19** Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** 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.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will continue our series through the Sermon on the Mount. We will focus on Jesus' words about him being the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets and the calling we have as his followers to live with a deeper righteousness than the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law. We will discover how this portion of the Sermon on the Mount is good news for us and how we grow in our spiritual lives.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. Has Christianity ever felt like a list of to-do's (like a long CVS receipt) to you? Why or why not?
2. Pastor Rich described the Old Testament story like this:
  - God calls humanity to partner with him to live in a world marked by justice and peace.
  - Humanity prefers to go their own way.
  - God doesn't give up on humanity
  - God calls the nation of Israel to lead the way to make the world new and unite heaven and earth.

The people of Israel were not able to fulfill the story. Jesus came to live up to what now one else could. How do you think Jesus is the “fulfillment of the law” as he said in Matthew 5:17?

3. “Get the burden off your shoulder because Jesus has already done what we can't do.” How does that statement speak to you?
4. The Pharisees struggled with an “outside-in” righteousness marked by:
  - Superiority Complex
  - Religious Self-deception (we think we are doing better than we actually are)
  - Lack of Security in God's Love

Do you relate to this struggle and/or have you experienced it in a religious setting? What do you think an “inside-out” righteousness is marked by?

5. The good news: Jesus does what no else could do in fulfilling the law.

Through faith in Jesus we receive a new heart to live a deeper righteousness that goes beyond surface obedience.

Jesus is calling us to a deeper life of obedience in the Sermon on the Mount. Take time to pray to ask God to help transform you from the inside out.