Fulfilled Law = Good News

Mt 5.17-21

I. *Intro: Why this, why now?*

* It doesn’t seem to flow in a particular way from the previous passage.
* He is seeking to preemptively eliminate two potential misconceptions about what his work and message.
* We ourselves are equally prone to these misconceptions today and lead us into either *license* or *legalism*.

**Main Point:** *God’s law is inescapable and unkeepable for fallen man, so Jesus satisfies its demands for us.*

II. *The Authority of God’s Law is Inescapable*

* Pitting Jesus against the law is going to be a favorite tactic of Jesus’ opponents
* Jesus affirms the absolute authority of the whole of God’s Word.
* What they used to undermine him in their day is very attractive in ours; we love our autonomy and take offense at the notion of an authority outside of ourselves.
* Jesus makes it clear that outside authority- that of God through His Word- is objective reality that we cannot escape, whether we acknowledge it or not.

III. *The Demands of God’s Law are Unkeepable*

* Another danger lurking, that Jesus’ original audience was very prone to- legalism
* Most of Jesus audience thinks that keeping the law is how you’re made right with God
* Pharisees- righteous, respected; like pastors in America were back in the day; renowned for their law keeping.
* Jesus uses the Pharisees to set a standard that is unfathomable to his disciples; if they haven’t kept the law, it is unkeepable.

IV. *The Good News of God’s Law-Fulfilled*

* If the law is inescapable AND unkeepable- where does that leave us?
* In and of ourselves, in a very bad place- but Jesus fulfills the law for us.
* Jesus satisfies every demand of the law for us- we no longer need to escape or keep the law.
* Free from this need to keep the law, we are empowered by grace to live the kind of life the law could never produce.

V. *Conclusion: The beauty of the law for those under grace.*