FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROCHESTER

Sermon Discussion Guide
November 22, 2026

Refresh
Read Matthew 5:17-20 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss
In Matthew 5:17, Jesus declares that He came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. What does it mean that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament, and how should this shape the way we read and understand it?

Jesus emphasizes that not even the smallest detail of God's Word will pass away until all is accomplished (v. 18). What does this reveal about Jesus' view of Scripture? In what ways are we tempted to not have a high view of God's Word?

Jesus fulfilled the Law through His perfect obedience and His “once-for-all” sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:1-14). How should these truths deepen our gratitude for Christ and change the way we approach God?

The religious leaders of Jesus' day often elevated their traditions to the level of God's commands. How might we be tempted to do this in our own lives or in our church? How can we distinguish between biblical commands and personal preferences or traditions?

In verse 20, Jesus declared that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. What is the difference between outward religious behavior and genuine righteousness that comes from a transformed heart? How can we identify our tendency to focus on outward religious behavior rather than genuine heart transformation?

Pastor Mark mentioned that “the righteousness that saves is not achieved but received.” How does this truth challenge both our self-righteousness and our discouragement over our failures? How should it inspire us to pursue holiness and obedience to Christ?