

Matthew 5:17-20

4 Proclaimed Beliefs Jesus Had About Scripture



Background/Context

- Written by former tax collector, Matthew (also called Levi)
- Audience: primarily Jews; Matthew is the most “Jewish” of all the 4 Gospels
- Written (50-60 AD)
- This section: Jesus’ great Sermon on the Mount (great teaching on living Christian life)
- Jesus shares God’s principles for following Jesus the Messiah
- Religious leaders/casual listeners might have understood Jesus cancelling OT; this untrue

Jesus Pointed To Himself As The Person Of Scripture

- (v.17) Jesus teaching NW corner, Sea of Galilee; shows He Himself had very high view of Scripture
- Religious leaders accuse Jesus of doing away with Law; Jesus affirms opposite, He is the fulfillment of the Law spoke about
- “destroy” – “dissolve, disintegrate”
- “fulfill” – “complete, accomplish”; Jesus going to explain fully and show how to live OT original intent

- John 5:29, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”
- Luke 24:25-27, “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”
- “THE NEW TESTAMENT IS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT CONCEALED, THE OLD TESTAMENT IS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT REVEALED”.

Jesus Proclaimed The Perfection Of Scripture

- (v.18) Jesus gives very strong affirmation, “For assuredly” – “truly, surely, amen and amen”
- “one jot” – reference to “yod”, smallest letter of Hebrew alphabet; looks like our apostrophe
- “one tittle” – little extensions on Hebrew letters that differentiate them
- Jesus absolute affirms the reliability of Scripture

- 2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,…”

Arabic		Hebrew		Syriac		Greek		Value
'alif	ا	'āleṗ	א	'ālap̄	ܐ	alp ^h a	A	1
bā'	ب	bēt	ב	bēt	ܒ	bēta	B	2
gīm	ج	gimel	ג	gāmal	ܓ	gamma	Γ	3
dāl	د	dālet	ד	dālat	ܕ	delta	Δ	4
hā'	ه	hē	ה	hē	ܗ	ep ^s ilon	E	5
wāw	و	wāw	ו	waw	ܘ	waw ¹	F	6
zāy	ز	zayin	ז	zayn	ܙ	z ^d ēta	Z	7
ḥā'	ح	ḥēt	ח	ḥēt	ܚ	ēta	H	8

Jesus Highlighted The Priorities Of Scripture

- (v.19) Scripture is special; as such, it is to be believed and lived out!
- It is God-breathed and God-given; seen as treasure and valued
- Knowing and applying for believers and churches are to be given high priority
- There great temptation to twist God's Word to suit our preferences; great pressure to dilute/compromise
- This brings terrible consequences

- Rev. 22:18, “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;...”



Jesus Focused The Purpose Of Scripture

- (v.20) Purpose of Scripture; show us God's plan of salvation and abundant living
- Scripture focus is right relationship with Jesus FIRST, then empowered living from that relationship
- Pharisees/Religious leaders; saw Scripture as list of rules; believed salvation/right-ness with God came from following list of rules
- Jesus showed the "rules" of the Bible were designed to show us our need for a Savior

- I John 5:13, “These things were written that you might KNOW you have eternal life.”
- Gal. 2:21, “I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

