



The King fulfills God's Word (v.17-18)

Jesus responds where the crowd may have been protesting (v17)
Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...

Jesus responds to the rabbi debates on Scripture's meaning (17)
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

- Abolish means interpret wrongly
- Fulfill means interpret rightly

Jesus the Messiah speaks as the Authority on Scripture (v.18)
For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

The King requires His people fulfill God's Word (v.19-20)

- Invalidating any part of Scripture makes you less (v.19)
whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least...
- Doing every part of Scripture makes you more (v.19)
- Teaching others how to do every part of Scripture makes you most (v.19)
...but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven
- To do this, His people must be transformed by Scripture (20)
...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Bottomline: Inner transformation is required to follow the Messiah's interpretation.

For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life:
 Trust in the One who offers you true righteousness

For those living a Jesus-centered life:

1. Start to fall in love with the Scriptures and be transformed
2. Don't read a passage without doing it
3. Become great: teach Scripture to others

Does everyone in group understand the way Jesus uses "abolish" and "fulfill"? It will be essential His teaching in vv.21 and on.

How does "improper interpretation" invalidate or abolish a truth? How does a "proper interpretation" fulfill that truth?

What authority do you give Jesus in your life? Is it up to the level of authority that He claims in this verse?

What part of your life is "out of reach" of His authority right now? Will you give that to Him now? Can we keep you accountable?

Does your life fulfill the truth of Scripture, or does it effectively 'abolish' it?

Do you properly interpret Scripture? How do you know? Do you need help learning how to do this?

What inner transformation has happened in you through Scripture? Where do you seek transformation outside of Scripture?

What action can you take on these applications? Can your group take any action together? How can you help each other make progress in one of these areas?

What's changing in your view of Scripture? What do you feel you need to do next?

EXTRA HELPS FOR GROUPS

Help me understand the Scripture we're reading!

▶ **What truth about God am I seeing?**

How does He reveal Himself in this passage?
What can I learn about who He is or what He does?

▶ **What details stand out?**

What's repeated or contrasted?
What's odd or confusing?
What descriptive words are there? How do they shape the text's meaning or impact?

▶ **What is the central idea of the passage?**

What was the author saying here?
Can you say it in one simple sentence?

▶ **How did God intend for His people to respond?**

How did they respond to Him or what He did?
How should they have responded?
What was this text supposed to produce in them?

▶ **So how should I respond?**

What should this move me to do?
What should this move us to do together?

Help me apply what we're discovering in Scripture!

▶ **What's the clear take-away?**

Is there a clear promise to count on, command to obey, or example to imitate?
Is there a sin to avoid or example to *not* repeat?

▶ **What do we need to step into?**

How have we avoided this truth?
What do we need to do now to conform to it?
Where do I not yet evidence belief or obedience to this part of Scripture?

▶ **What do I need to surrender?**

How do I need to trust God and walk forward?
What new reality do I need to accept and trust God with?
What costs do I need to embrace to obey?

▶ **Am I responding as God intended?**

How did they respond to Him or what He did?
How should they have responded?
How should I be responding too?

▶ **What accountability do I need?**

How will I know when I've made this change?
How can others challenge me if they see me go backward on this belief / in this area?
How can they remind me of my choice today?

▶ **What do I need to share?**

Can I encourage a Jesus-centered friend?
Can I challenge a Jesus-centered friend?
Can I bring God's truth or hope to someone not-yet-Jesus centered?

Help our group start talking!

▶ **What was most impactful from the sermon?**

What stood out most? Why did that stand out?
What needs to change in you because of that?

▶ **What was most confusing or unsettling?**

What can we do to help you understand it?
What can we do to help you address that?

▶ **Why is it so important that we get this <main idea> and act on it?**

▶ **If we really lived in light of this truth, what would be different?**

What would we do differently? Say? Think? Feel?
We may think we "get it," but does each part of our lives reflect that?

▶ **How will you pray differently because of this?**

How will you relate to God differently?
How will you engage with others (or your relationships, job, etc.) differently because of what you're learning about God?