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Matthew

To Fulfill All Righteousness



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.13-17

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, **“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”** Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.13-17: Context

- **Matthew 1**

- Jesus - Genealogy **1.1-17** • Birth **1.18-22** • Purpose **1.21** • Fulfillment **1.22-23**

- **Matthew 2**

- Wise men - In Jerusalem **2.1-8** • In Bethlehem **2.9-12** • Return home **2.12-13**
- Joseph, Mary, Jesus - To Egypt **2.12-14**
- Herod - Rage **2.16-18** • Death **2.19**
- Joseph, Mary, Jesus - Return to Israel/settle in Nazareth **2.19-23**



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.13-17: Context

- **Matthew 3**

- John - Preaching **3.1-12** • Fulfillment **3.2** • Appearance and diet **3.4**
 - Location **3.5** • Message **3.6** • To the Pharisees & Sadducees **3.7-12**
- Jesus - Came from Galilee **3.15** • To be baptized by John **3.13**
 - John tried to prevent him 3.14 • “I need to be baptized by you ...” **3.14**
 - “and are you coming to me?” **3.14**



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.13-17: Context

- **Jesus' statement**

- “Permit it to be so now” • **Permit** - *imperative* • **Allow, suffer, let** • “**Now**” tells us John was right to think that, Jesus being greater, he/John should be baptized by him/Jesus • There was a **reason** for this to be permitted *now*
- “It is fitting” • **Fitting** - *present* • Proper, right/right to do, this is the way/in this way, ought, necessary, must carry out, must do/should do
- “To fulfill all righteousness” • To make righteousness complete, do all that/carry out all that God requires, do whatever God says is right, do all that uprightness demands, do it/God's work



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.15: Principles

- **Jesus**
 - Knew the **mind** of God
 - Led out the **meaning** of **God**
 - Led out the **meaning** of **Scripture**
 - Led out the meaning of God & Scripture in **his life**
 - Led out the meaning of God & Scripture in his life **for us**



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.15: Principles

- **Jesus**
 - Knew the **mind** of God • **Mt 3.13ff, 11.27, Jn 1.14, 5.19, 30, 37, 6.46, 8.28, Col 1.15**
 - Led out the **meaning** of **God** • **Jn 1.1, 17-18, Heb 1.1-4**
 - Led out the **meaning** of **Scripture** • **Mt 4.1ff, 23ff, 5.3-12, 17-48, Lk 24.13ff, 36ff**
 - Led out the meaning of God & Scripture in **his life** • **Heb 4.15, 7.26, 1 Pet 2.22, 1 Jn 3.5, Jn 8.46**
 - Led out the meaning of God & Scripture in his life **for us** • **Mt 8.16-17, 14.4, Jn 17.1ff, 7-9, 20-26 • Jn 13.15, 1 Pet 2.21, 1 Cor 11.1, 1 Th 1.6-7, 2 Cor 5.21**



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.15: Principles

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Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.15: Key Thought

- There is a significant problem that relates to the interpretation of the phrase to fulfil all righteousness, which TEV represents by “do all that God requires.” In this interpretation TEV has the support of a number of modern translations (TNT, GECL 1st edition, FRCL, DUCL, NAB, NEB, MFT). PHPS relates it specifically to the fulfillment of God’s Law (“It is right for us to meet all the Law’s demands”), while BRC is even more general: “for the right thing for us to do is to do everything a good man ought to do.” One scholar affirms that the key to understanding **the meaning of righteousness in the Gospel of Matthew is its usage in the Old Testament.**



Jesus' 1st Words In Matthew

Matthew 3.15: Key Thought

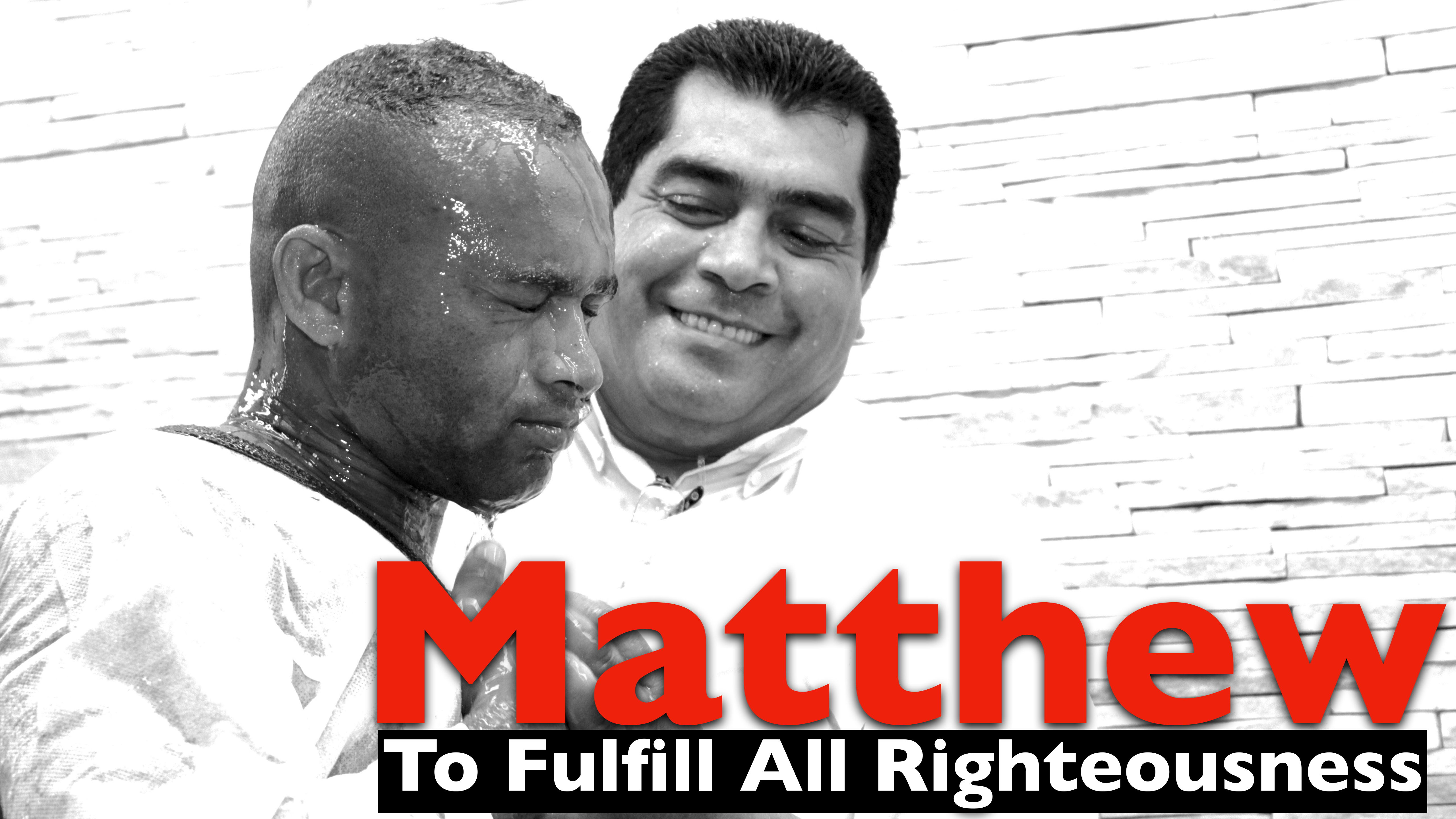
- There the phrase **“the righteousness of God”** refers to **“God’s acts of righteousness”** by which he brings about **salvation** for his people. “Righteousness” in fact becomes **a synonym for “salvation,”** and the Messiah may be referred to as **“the Lord is our righteousness”** (Jer 23.6; 33.16; see Isa 11.1–4). By **obedience** to God, his people themselves become involved in God’s redemptive activity: “do righteousness, for soon my salvation (my righteousness) will come” (Isa 56.1).



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Matthew 3.15: Key Thought

- If this idea is followed through in the Old Testament, the conclusion must then be reached that “we can no longer make a sharp distinction between God’s actions with respect to men and the human actions that spring from God’s. The question is only one of emphasis.... **In our passage the doing of God’s will is certainly intended.**” (Newman, Stine. A Translator’s Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew)



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