

**(Slide 1)**

Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

17”Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18For 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. 19Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**(Slide 2)**

Inconceivable

“Iotas, Dots, and Mitzvots”

Matthew 5:17-20

**(Slide 3)**

5:17-20 - Pivots between teaching on CHARACTER (5:1-12), INFLUENCE (5:13-16), and EXPECTATIONS of Kingdom Living (5:21-7:29)

1. Jesus and Scripture
2. Scripture and Us

**(Resting slide)**

**(Slide 4)**

Hebrew Poetry?

5:17 – Keeping the Law

5:18 – Each letter, until all is accomplished

5:19 – Each command, to the fullest extent

5:20 – Keeping the Law

**(Resting slide)**

**(Slide 5)**

John 5:39-40 (ESV)

39You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me, 40yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.

**(Resting slide)**

**(Slide 6a)**

Romans 10:4 (ESV)

4For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

**(Slide 6b)**

Romans 10:4 (ESV)

4For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4 (CJSB)

4For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts.

**(Resting slide)**

**(Slide 7)**

“[Jesus Christ] indeed has literally fulfilled and carried out and brought to pass every single one of those types (what was foreshadowed in the Old Testament)... He is the high priest, He is the offering, He is the sacrifice, and He has presented His blood in Heaven so that the whole of the ceremonial law has been fulfilled in Him.”

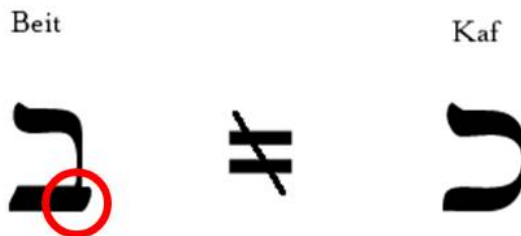
(D. Martin Lloyd-Jones, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount (Vol 1), page 193)

**(Resting slide)**

**(Slide 8a)**



**(Slide 8b)**



**(Resting Slide)**

**(Slide 9)**

“Like a drumbeat that never stops, in the pages of the Old Testament we hear the constant message that this world revolves around God, not us. The Hebrews had incessant reminders built into their culture. They dedicated their firstborn livestock and children to God, wore portions of the Law on their heads and wrists, posted visible reminders on their doorways, said the word ‘blessed’ a hundred times a day, even wore distinctive hairstyles and sewed tassels on their garments. A devout Jew could barely make it through an hour, much less an entire day, without running smack into some reminder that he or she lived in God’s world... The world, they believed, is God’s property. And human life is ‘sacred,’ which simply means that it belongs to God to do with what He wills... In our secularized, industrialized environment, we can go through an entire week, not just a day, without bumping into a reminder that this is God’s world.”

(Philip Yancey, The Bible Jesus Read, pp 28-29)

**(Resting Slide)**

(Slide 10)

Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

33For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV)

26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules.

Questions for Small Groups

Inconceivable: “Iotas, Dots, and Mitzvots” – Matthew 5:17-20 – June 17, 2018

Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

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1. What stood out to you, or caused you think differently, from this passage?
2. What is the big idea of this passage?
3. Verses 17-18 focus on Jesus’s attitude toward Scripture (aka “the Law and the Prophets,” or simply, “the Law,” our Old Testament). What did He think about what Scripture says in reference to Himself?
4. What did Jesus mean when He said He came to fulfill Scripture? And what did He not mean? (“end” in Romans 10:4 refers to the outcome, not the cessation, of what was taught in the Law and Prophets)
5. Verse 18: What emphasis Jesus make when He spoke about iotas and dots? What about when He said, “... until heaven and earth pass away...” and “... until all is accomplished?”
6. What has been your experience with the Old Testament? What do you find difficult when reading the OT? What would be helpful to you to overcome some of those challenges?
7. What is the main point of verse 19? (It’s not about least and greatest, or about doing the right external actions, it’s about loving God so much we’re compelled to obey; the Sermon on the Mount is not about how to get in, it’s about being who we are)
8. In verse 20, how can our righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?