

**Living
Upside
Down**

Message 4: *Raising the Bar*
Mt. 5:17-20





1

What this message is about

Having defined the character of a disciple and the influence of a disciple, Jesus now begins to define the righteousness of a disciple related to the Jewish Scriptures.



2

Purpose of this message

To explain and apply Jesus' statement, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and the pharisees you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."



3

Mt. 5:17-20 ESV

"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. 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."



4

Mt. 5:17-20 ESV

¹⁹ Therefore 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.



5

Mt. 5:17-20 ESV

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



6

1. Relationship of Jesus to the Jewish Scriptures: Fulfillment

7

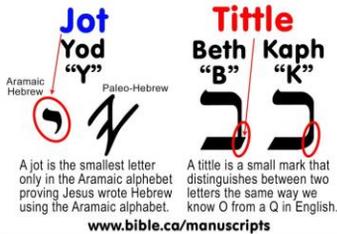
Matthew 5:17

“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. 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.

8

Jot & Tittle

“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter (Jot/iota,Yod) or stroke (Tittle) shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matt 5:18)



9

a. He fulfills as the one to whom the Scriptures point

10

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

11

b. He fulfills as the one perfectly does the righteous requirements of the Law.

12

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.



13

c. He fulfills by being the authoritative teacher and practitioner of the law.



14

Mt. 7:28-29

²⁸And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.



15

Mt. 12:7-8

And if you had known what this means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.



16

2. Our relationship to the Jewish Scriptures: Obedience as taught and practiced by Jesus.



17

Mt. 5:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore 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.



18

Mt. 5:19-20

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



19

Mt. 22:36-40

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? ³⁷And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.



20

Mt. 22:36-40

³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



21

Mt. 7:12

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



22

Next Step

Read through Matthew. Look how Jesus taught and practiced the Jewish Scriptures. Pattern your obedience after his.



23