

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 57-The Sermon on the Mount – Christ and the Law

February 15, 2026

This study guide is designed to facilitate a deep understanding of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Law of God as presented in the Sermon on the Mount. The material focuses on the immutability of God's Word, the distinction between various forms of the Law, and the requirement for a righteousness that exceeds external tradition.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences based on the provided text.

1. How does the pastor interpret the significance of the phrase "assuredly I say to you" (or "amen") as an opening statement by Jesus Christ?
2. According to Matthew 5:18, what is the duration of the Law's authority, and what must happen before it passes away?
3. What are the four primary themes outlined in the sermon regarding the Lord's perspective on the Law of God?
4. How does the sermon define the "Moral Law," and what is its relationship to the character of God?
5. What was the specific purpose of the "Ceremonial Law" and the "Judicial Law" in relation to the nation of Israel?
6. In what three ways is the Law of God considered "preeminent" according to the outline provided in the lesson?
7. How does the pastor explain the Hebrew and Greek origins of the terms "jot" and "tittle"?
8. According to the text, what is the "lousy testimony" of the modern church, and why does it occur?
9. How did Jesus Christ respond to the Pharisees and scribes regarding their substitution of human tradition for God's Law?
10. What was the perspective of Dr. Arthur W. Pink regarding Christ's mission in relation to the Law?

Part II: Answer Key

1. The phrase is an authoritative and solemn introduction derived from the word "Amen," which signals that the statement following it is an absolute truth. It serves as a call for the audience to pay close attention to an assertion that is certain and faithful.
2. The Law remains in effect until heaven and earth pass away and every prophecy and requirement is fully realized. Even after the physical universe is replaced by a new heaven and earth, the words of God will never be done away with.
3. The four themes are the preeminence of the Law, the permanence of the Law, the pertinence of the Law, and the purpose of the Law. These points provide a comprehensive framework for understanding how the Lord views Divine statutes.
4. The Moral Law, primarily represented by the Ten Commandments, is an eternal expression of the character and nature of God. It serves as the foundational standard that Christians are still called to uphold today.
5. The Ceremonial Law was developed so that Israel could visualize and understand God's character. The Judicial Law was established to provide the nation with a better understanding of His nature and justice.
6. The Law is preeminent because it was authored by God, affirmed by the various prophets of the Old Testament, and ultimately accomplished through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ met every single element and requirement of the Law perfectly.
7. A "jot" refers to the *yod*, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet which looks like an apostrophe. A "tittle" (or *keraia*) is a tiny stroke or line that distinguishes one letter from another, emphasizing that even the smallest detail of God's Word is essential.
8. The church has a poor testimony because it often fails to live a life that is separate from the world. When the world looks at the church and sees no difference in conduct or standards, it finds no reason to be attracted to the message of Jesus Christ.
9. Jesus Christ called the Pharisees and scribes hypocrites because they prioritized human tradition over the commands of God. Rather than lowering the standards to accommodate them, He lifted the standards higher, insisting on a righteousness of the heart.
10. Dr. Pink argued that Jesus Christ was never opposed to the Law of God, as some had hoped. Instead, He came to magnify the Law, render it honorable, and enforce its truth through His life and teachings.

Part III: Essay Questions

Instructions: Prepare a detailed response for the following questions.

- 1. The Conflict of Truth:** Contrast the concept of "Absolute Truth" as presented by Jesus Christ with the modern philosophy of "Relativity." How does the pastor use the phrase "heaven and earth pass away" to support the claim of absolute authority?
- 2. The Inerrancy of Scripture:** Discuss the pastor's argument regarding the "inerrancy of God's Word" in light of the discovery of new manuscripts. Why does the text suggest that new findings only "embellish" rather than contradict the Bible?
- 3. The Fulfillment of the Law:** Explain how Jesus Christ serves as the "accomplishment" of the Law. How does His role as the fulfillment of the Law differ from the Jewish expectation that He might "cut them some slack" regarding legal requirements?
- 4. Separation and Sanctification:** Analyze the connection between the Beatitudes and the believer's responsibility to be "salt and light." Why is a commitment to the Word of God necessary for a Christian to have an effective testimony in the world?
- 5. The Moral Foundation:** Evaluate the relationship between the Moral Law, the Judicial Law, and the Ceremonial Law. Why is it significant to understand the Moral Law as an expression of God's nature rather than just a set of rules?

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

- **Amen:** A solemn expression of certainty and truth, often translated as "assuredly" or "verily" when used by Jesus Christ to introduce a statement.
- **Anachronism:** (Referenced in context as "acronymism" or "anacism") An idea or statement that exists outside of or against the constraints of time; used to describe the timelessness of God's Word.
- **Ceremonial Law:** The set of statutes given to Israel involving rituals and sacrifices intended to illustrate the character of God.
- **Judicial Law:** The civil statutes given to the nation of Israel to govern their society and reflect the nature of God's justice.
- **Moral Law:** The eternal standards of right and wrong, specifically the Ten Commandments, which reflect the unchanging nature of God.
- **Permanence:** The quality of lasting or remaining unchanged indefinitely; applied to the Law of God until all is fulfilled.
- **Preeminence:** The state of being superior or surpassing all others in authority and importance.
- **Sermon on the Mount:** The discourse delivered by Jesus Christ in Matthew chapters 5 through 7, detailing the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Part V: Greek and Hebrew Terminology

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Iota ^[^1]	ee-OH-tah	The smallest letter of the Greek alphabet; used by Jesus Christ to represent the smallest detail of the Law.
Keraia ^[^2]	ker-ah-yah	A "tittle" or tiny stroke in writing that distinguishes one letter from another; used to denote the precision of Scripture.
Po ^[^3]	poh	A Greek exclamation used to express intense sadness or woe; the pastor notes that its repetition signifies a multiplication of tragedy.
Yohd ^[^4]	yohd	The smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, often resembling an apostrophe; referred to by Jesus Christ as a "jot."

[^1]: Used to emphasize the "inerrancy of every itty bitty word" in the Greek text of the Bible. [^2]: Referred to in the transcript as "ka" or "tit," this represents the minute details of the written Law. [^3]: Used by the pastor to describe the "sad, sad situation" regarding modern societal issues and tragedies. [^4]: The Hebrew equivalent of the Greek *iota*, signifying that no part of the Law is too small to be fulfilled.

Scripture References (NKJV)

- **Matthew 5:18:** "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."
- **Matthew 5:19:** "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
- **Matthew 5:20:** "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."
- **Psalm 102:25-27:** "Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years have no end."
- **Matthew 24:35:** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."