

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 61- Christ and the Law

March 22, 2026

This study guide provides a comprehensive review of the teachings regarding the relationship between the believer, Jesus Christ, and the Law of God, as presented in Lesson 61 on the Sermon on the Mount.

Review Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. How does the lesson define what it means for a believer to be "Christlike" in relation to the Law?
 2. Describe the system of commandments developed by the Jews to categorize the laws of God.
 3. What is the significance of the term "loose" (referred to as *lul*) in the context of Matthew 5:19?
 4. According to Matthew 22, which two commandments did Jesus Christ identify as the greatest, and what is their relationship to the rest of the Law?
 5. What distinction does the lesson make between "weightier matters of the Law" and the practices of the Pharisees regarding their tithes?
 6. Explain the concept of "commensurate" rewards and punishments as described in the teaching.
 7. What specific events occurred to the ceremonial law and the Jewish sacrificial system following the death of Jesus Christ?
 8. According to the teaching, does being "least in the kingdom of heaven" imply a loss of salvation? Why or why not?
 9. Based on the reference to James 2:10, what is the consequence of stumbling in just one point of the Law?
 10. What is the "Via Dolorosa," and what is its spiritual significance for the believer today?
-

Answer Key

1. To be Christlike is to pursue complete obedience to all of God's Law. The lesson teaches that when a person manipulates or sets aside any part of the Law to accommodate their own sins or selfish reasons, they cease to be Christlike.
2. The Jews identified a total of 613 commands within the Law. These were divided into 248 positive commands and 365 negative commands—one for every day of the year.
3. To "loose" oneself from a command means to release oneself from the obligation to follow it. Jesus Christ taught that whoever flagrantly sets aside even the least commandment and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven.
4. Jesus Christ stated that the first and great commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. He taught that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.
5. The Pharisees were meticulous about tithing tiny herbs and seeds like mint, anise, and cumin, yet they neglected the "weightier matters" of the Law, which Jesus Christ identified as justice, mercy, and faith.
6. Everything in the Kingdom of God is commensurate, meaning rewards and punishments are in proportion to one's actions and heart. Just as there are degrees of reward in Heaven, there are degrees of punishment in Hell; for example, a moral person who rejects Christ will not face the same degree of punishment as a figure like Adolf Hitler.
7. When Jesus Christ died, the ceremonial law was fulfilled and set aside. The temple veil was torn in two, the Holy of Holies was opened, and the sacrificial system eventually came to a halt when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.
8. No, it does not imply a loss of salvation. The text is specifically directed at disciples (believers); while their disregard for the Law impacts their place of blessing, fruitfulness, and reward, they remain within the Kingdom of God through His forgiveness.
9. James 2:10 states: "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." Offending one point shows an irreverence for the totality of the Law of God.
10. The Via Dolorosa, or "Way of Suffering," is the half-mile path in Jerusalem from Pilate's judgment seat to Calvary. It represents the incredible cost Jesus Christ paid to redeem humanity from the penalty of sin.

Essay Questions for Further Reflection

1. **The Continuity of the Law:** Compare and contrast the parts of the Law that were fulfilled and set aside by Jesus Christ (ceremonial, civil, and judicial) with the moral law of God. Why does the moral law remain unchanged?
2. **The Heart of Obedience:** Analyze why the Pharisees sought to distinguish between "important" and "easy" commands. How does this human tendency to rank sins manifest in the modern Church?
3. **The Whole Counsel of God:** The speaker emphasizes teaching the Bible "word by word" and "verse by verse." Discuss the importance of declaring the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) versus focusing only on topical or comfortable subjects.
4. **Reward and Position in the Kingdom:** Discuss the implications of the teaching that a believer's actions on earth directly impact their "place of respect and honor" in Heaven. How does this motivate a life of holiness without falling into the trap of "works-based" salvation?
5. **The Lordship of Christ:** Reflect on the criticism that one can accept Jesus Christ as Savior without accepting Him as Lord. Based on the lesson, what is the danger of a "complacent" or "lukewarm" faith?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Anise:** A spice or herb used by the Pharisees in their meticulous tithing practices.
- **Bondservant:** A term used to describe Moses, indicating a position of total service and submission to God.
- **Calvary:** The site of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; also referred to as the place where He bore the burden of human sin.
- **Commensurate:** Corresponding in size, degree, or proportion. Used to describe how God administers rewards in Heaven and punishments in Hell.
- **Greatest Commandment:** The command to love the Lord God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind.
- **Least in the Kingdom:** A status of diminished honor and reward in Heaven resulting from a flagrant disregard for God's commandments while on earth.
- **Legalism (Implicit):** The practice of focusing on minute prescriptions of the law (like tithing herbs) while neglecting core spiritual values.
- **Moral Law:** The eternal standards of God that do not change and were not set aside by the fulfillment of the ceremonial or civil laws.
- **NKJV:** The New King James Version of the Bible, used for scriptural references.

- **Pharisees:** A Jewish sect known for their strict adherence to traditional and written law, often criticized by Jesus Christ for hypocrisy.
- **Redemption:** The act of Jesus Christ dying on the cross to take away sin and rescue humanity from its penalty.
- **Sadducees:** A Jewish sect that was silenced by the wisdom of Jesus Christ's teachings regarding the Law.
- **Via Dolorosa:** Latin phrase meaning "The Way of Suffering," referring to the path Jesus Christ walked to His crucifixion.

Greek Terminology and Footnotes

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Lul	[¹] <i>loo-oh</i>	To loose, release, or unbind oneself from an obligation or command.

[¹]: The transcript uses the phonetic representation "lul" to refer to the Greek word *λυō* (λύω), which Jesus Christ used to describe the act of breaking or releasing oneself from the commandments in Matthew 5:19.