

### 1. The Teaching on the Mountain

- Jesus goes up on "The Mountain" to teach his disciples (Matt. 5:1)
- Moses is considered the great teacher of Israel – *Moshe Rabbenu* or Moses our Teacher.
- Moses ascended the Mountain of God / Jesus ascends the Mountain to teach.

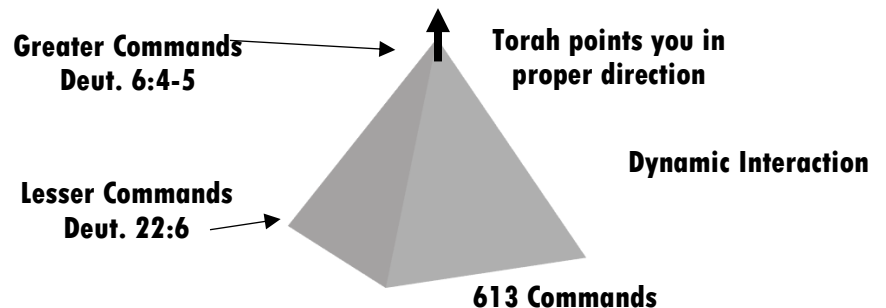
### 2. Matthew 5:17-21 is critical to what is going to follow in the teaching:<sup>1</sup>

Word(s)	Meaning in 1 <sup>st</sup> century/Rabbis
Torah (Law)	to teach, to direct, to guide. Not simply a list of rules. - derive principles out of Torah to apply to changing world.
Abolish/Fulfill	technical rabbinic terms used when <b>interpreting</b> the Torah. - abolish – interpret Torah incorrectly - fulfill - interpret Torah correctly
Least (Light) / Greater (Heavy) Commands	do not allow breaking a lesser command (hate/anger) lead to breaking a greater command (murder).
Smallest letter	The smallest Hebrew letter is a yod
Kingdom of Heaven	Present – manifesting God's kingdom in present – not talking about ultimate salvation.

- Reflects Rabbinic scripture interpretation techniques that his audience would understand.

### 3. Torah -

- To teach, to guide, to instruct. God created a human being and then gave us an **instruction manual**.
- The root word for Torah (תורה) is Yarah (ירה) which means to throw or shoot, like an arrow.
  - Torah is teaching that is straight and true with divine aim/precision.
  - When Torah is properly interpreted and implemented it serves as a guide for successful living.



<sup>1</sup> Young, Brad. 2007. *Jesus the Jewish Theologian*, pp. 265-269.

#### 4. Abolish and Fulfill:

- The western tendency is to interpret this as "Jesus fulfilled the law in his being; therefore, we don't need it."<sup>2</sup>
- Abolish and fulfill are **technical** rabbinic words (take on different meanings in a specific context) that are used in the context of **interpreting the scripture** (Torah).<sup>3</sup>

	Hebrew	Meaning
Abolish	<i>Batel</i> - בתל	Nullify, abolish
Fulfill	<i>Qeyim</i> - קיים	To make stand;

<b>Abolish</b>	Interpret the Torah incorrectly so that if followed, one would violate God's commands.
<b>Fulfill</b>	Interpret the Torah correctly so that if followed, one would follow the Torah as God intended.

“Do not think that I have come to [interpret the Torah incorrectly so that you will disobey God] Torah or the Prophets, I have not come to [interpret incorrectly] but to [interpret them correctly so that when followed the Torah is maintained] – paraphrase of Matt. 5:17

- Example: John 7:21-24 – circumcision, Sabbath, and the principle of a human life.
- See also Romans 3:31 – where Paul writes that "faith" upholds – fulfills – the Torah.

#### 5. The breaking of Lesser Commands can lead to the breaking of a Greater Command

- Common sayings within early Jewish (Dead Sea Scrolls), Rabbinic (Tractate Derekh Eretz Zuta<sup>4</sup>), and the early Christian document, the Didache (3:1)<sup>5</sup>.
- Anger can lead to murder (Matt. 5:21-22)
- Lust can lead to Adultery (Matt. 5:27-30)

#### 6. Solomon and the Yod:

- A rabbinic story (Exodus Rabbah 6:1) uses a story to illustrate Solomon's disobedience to the Torah as he accumulated wives, horses, and gold.<sup>6</sup>
- Solomon, in his own wisdom, interpreted the text (Deuteronomy 17:16-17) differently and therefore "abolished" Torah
- The Yod – the smallest Hebrew letter – ascends to God to complain that Solomon is removing letters.
- God assures the Yod that not even the smallest letter from the Torah will "pass away" from the Torah.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/october-web-only/andy-stanley-irresistible-response-to-foster.html>

<sup>3</sup> Flusser, David. 1988. *Judaism and the Origins of Christianity*, p. 495.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.sefaria.org/Tractate\\_Derekh\\_Eretz\\_Zuta.2.7?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en](https://www.sefaria.org/Tractate_Derekh_Eretz_Zuta.2.7?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-lightfoot.html>

<sup>6</sup> See a variant telling: [https://www.sefaria.org/Legends\\_of\\_the\\_Jews.4.5?lang=bi](https://www.sefaria.org/Legends_of_the_Jews.4.5?lang=bi)