



# DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

## DAY 1

### READ MATHEW 5:17-20

We hear about the law of God-what God wants-but do we really want to understand what it means, or do we just want to see if we can squeeze it down to something we can manage? For example, when we hear "do not steal," we say, "define stealing." For a young dating couple, that question might be, "How far can we go and still be ok with God?" God says, "Give to me first fruits of all your increase." We say, "Is a tithe really a command or more like a principle?" Jesus says, "Love your neighbor." We say, "Define neighbor."

Why do we ask? Because we want to know where the line is. We want to know how much we can get away with before we're technically breaking the law. How far can we go and still be considered Godly people?

We forget that Jesus was a rabbi, and just like any other Jewish rabbi, His job was to make the Law of God clear. A rabbi would interpret all 613 laws and provide insight on what the law means. Jesus, in his teaching, clarified the law by saying, "Come follow me, this is how I follow the Law."

His teaching would have been called a "yoke," which was His particular interpretation of the Law. He said, "Come to me you who are weary and heavy laden. My yoke is easy and my burden is light," meaning "What I am going to give you is going to be much better than what anyone else will give you."

What did Jesus think about the Bible?  
How does Jesus say we are to respond to the Bible?



## DAY 2

### READ LUKE 16:17

To the Jewish audience, entrance into the Kingdom of God by grace without mentioning Law sounded completely wrong. To those of us who are Christians today, entrance into the Kingdom of God by grace doesn't sound strange at all, but Matthew 5:17-20 sounds strange to us. It says we are to follow every commandment; our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. To the Jewish listener, God not requiring obedience sounded strange. To us, God requiring obedience sounds strange. We often think, "Isn't salvation free? Isn't it a gift by grace?"

What Jesus is saying here is that the Law (referring to the Old Testament laws) cannot be abolished. God's Word cannot be taken back. We often take back our words and make mistakes, but God doesn't.

The King James Version Bible uses the words "jot" and "tittle" in place of "iota" and "dot." A jot is the smallest letter in the Hebrew language. A tittle is a little tail on a letter that changes the meaning. We might say, dot the "i" and cross the "t". This is the view of the Bible that Jesus had—that every detail of Scripture comes from God, not just the basic principles, but down to the the smallest letter.

What is your view of the Bible?  
To what detail to you read and try to understand the Bible?

## DAY 3

### READ MATTHEW 5:17

Do you find yourself thinking, "I believe in Jesus, but I don't believe everything the Bible has to say." This view is common today, but the truth is that Jesus and the Bible are the same. We can't pick and choose which one we want to follow and which parts we want to toss out. We can't accept Jesus, but reject the Bible. Jesus said, "God's Word will not be abolished, it must be fulfilled." And when Jesus references God's Word, he is talking about the entire Old Testament, including the Ten Commandments, the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch), 613 different commands, and more. Jesus is saying, "Not only do I have the authority to teach scripture, I believe in the authority of scripture, I love the sacred scripture, I am the Word, it all came from Me to begin with. "

God's Word demanded perfection. Imagine living in this time, knowing that no matter what you did, you always fell short of the Law; you could never meet the requirements. No matter how many times you offered a sacrifice, none of it had the ability to, once and for all, pay for your failure to keep the Law. It would be pretty defeating, but that was the point: to drive people toward God, the only being who could live such a life. From the beginning, the Law was intended for relationship between God and his people. He set the bar so high that they couldn't reach it on their own—they needed to see the gravity of their sin problem so that their only solution was a relationship with a Savior.

How does God's Word drive you to Him?  
How does it make you recognize your need for Jesus?

## DAY 4

### READ HEBREWS 4:15

The Law of the Old Testament demanded 2 things: obedience and death. Jesus lived them out perfectly. He accomplished the law to perfection, meaning he obeyed all of it and lived a life of righteousness. Jesus said, "When I am finished, I will have completed every last detail of the law to perfection. I have fulfilled it." If you were there and listening to Him, you might wonder, "does that mean the Law is no longer relevant?" Jesus saying that the law was fulfilled doesn't mean it's irrelevant, it just means He had created a way for there to be a new covenant to replace that of the Old Testament. The Law was a binding covenant made between God and Israel. Now, He's made a new one with us.

The Law also demanded punishment by death for the penalty of sin. This is why animals were sacrificed as payment for sin throughout the Old Testament. When Jesus died for our sins, it was the only way for God to no longer hold the punishment of sin over our heads. In Christ, we are unconditionally loved and accepted. The payment has been made. As followers of Jesus, we are no longer bound to the Mosaic Law or its requirements. When Jesus spoke the words "It is Finished" from the Cross, He was declaring the Mosaic Law had been fulfilled and a new covenant was created.

Did Jesus just do away with all of the law?  
How do you relate the law with Jesus' new covenant?

## DAY 5

### READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

You might be thinking, "Where do we find our covenant with God today?" It's been moved over to the New Testament. It is a covenant of Grace. As Jesus talks about this new covenant, He doesn't lower the bar at all, He actually raises it! You're probably thinking, "If the Old Testament Law was impossible, how can we possibly live up to what Jesus is teaching?" In the same way that the Old Testament Law was meant to drive people to relationship with God, Jesus is driving us to Him with the new covenant. We need Him. We need a savior.

Jesus says the only way we can live in obedience to God is to live through Him every day. He says, "I will help you live. My spirit is inside of you. A life of relationship with me won't be about rules and regulations. It won't look like me putting a burden on you. I want you to live well! I want you to live free from guilt and burdens, things that would cause you pain and wreck your life." From the very beginning, these rules were meant to point us toward a life of love. Jesus says, "You will want to be obedient to me because you love me and I'll help you when you cross the line."

How do you get to a place where obedience and love are one?  
How does your relationship with Jesus revolve around confession, repentance, forgiveness and change?