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Sermon Notes

Slide Deck

Classical Conversations

Classical Conversations Interest

Harborview has three licensed Classical Conversations Communities on campus (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday). If you homeschool, or are thinking about homeschooling your family and are interested in the classical method of learning.



To learn more, contact Erin Hardwick, erin@hfcgh.org

Men

Seven Pillars - for men struggling with add

Tuesday Evenings Starting October 7th, 7-9pm.

Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own books. The required materials are the Seven Pillars of Freedom Kit (physical copy), which should be purchased from Pure Desire here: [Pure Desire Shop](#)

This group will walk through the Seven Pillars of Freedom by Pure Desire-- a proven biblically-based curriculum designed to help men break free from the cycle of unwanted sexual behaviors and establish a foundation for lifelong integrity.

This is a structured, confidential group where consistency and commitment are key. The process is intentional and requires honest participation, weekly reading and homework to fully engage with the material and the group experience.

If you need help obtaining these resources, please let us know--we're happy to assist.

For more information contact:

Jason Lerew - jlerew@gmail.com or 253-225-0373

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/451/responses>



The Cure - for men battling addiction

Join us for this 7-week journey through The Cure by John Lynch — a book that invites us to experience the transforming power of living in God's grace, rather than the exhausting pressure of trying to earn His approval.

Dates: Tuesdays
August 12 / 19 / 26
September 2 / 9 / 16 / 23
Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Our first meeting will serve as an introduction (with a little surprise in store), and the following 6 weeks will include light, manageable reading to prepare for each session's discussion. Out of respect for everyone's time, we will begin promptly at the top of the hour and aim to finish by 8:30 p.m. Please note: the first evening will run a bit longer, so plan for a 9:00 p.m. finish.

Participants will need to purchase The Cure on their own. Use this link:
Amazon.com: The Cure: What If God Isn't Who You Think He Is and Neither Are You (Audible Audio Edition): John Lynch, Bruce McNicol, Bill Thrall, Chris Arias, Trueface: Books

If you need help obtaining a copy, please let us know — we'd be happy to assist.

Come ready to grow, connect, and discover the freedom of grace together.

Contact: Jason Lerew
Email: jlerew@gmail.com or (253) 225-0373

Learn more, or register here:
<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/452/responses>

Prayer

Freedom Prayer

We provide a prayer opportunity for anyone who feels the need for increased freedom and personal breakthrough in their lives. You will be walked through a process of Freedom Prayer by 2 or 3 of our trained Ministry Team Members. Come with an expectant and receptive heart for the Lord to powerfully minister to you!

Learn more, or register here:
<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>

Intercessory Prayer

Join us for Intercessory prayer, Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 6:30am.

Learn more, or register here:
<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



Small Groups

Small Groups exist to help each one of us grow up into the life of God within us.

They are a primary mechanism for shepherding through relationship + discipleship.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/368/responses>



Freedom Intensive

The Freedom Intensive Plus Fall 2025 conference will offer four training tracks: *Living Set Free* (LSF), *Hearing God's Voice* (HGV), *Freedom Prayer Training* (FPT), and *At the Heart of Generosity* (AHG).



The conference will be on Thursday-Saturday, October 2-4, 2025.

\$95 per person Early Bird Registration by September 19, 2025
(the price will be \$80 if you already own a manual).

\$125 per person for Registration after September 19, 2025
(the price will be \$110 if you own a manual).

Have children? We have a special session of Living Set Free just for Harborview Families offered separately this Fall. Details to come!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://sycamorecommission.org/events/events-at-harborview>

Giving

Thank you for being a part of Harborview Fellowship Church. Your donations are used to support, grow, and advance God's kingdom through a number of ministries at Harborview Fellowship including Children and Youth ministries, Outreach, Missions, Operations, and Jesus Ministry training both locally and globally.



You can mail a check, or give online to the link below.

Harborview Fellowship
4819 Hunt Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/give>

JESUS ON INJUSTICES

Matthew 5:38-42

REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is addressing how God's kingdom responds to various forms of injustice.
- Bryce Morgan suggests that the focus of Jesus' following instruction relates to:
 - *When your spouse tries to take your joy with their criticisms and naysaying.*
 - *When a self-involved person tries to insert their agenda into your life.*
 - *When a neighbor tries to take advantage of your offer to 'lend a hand.'*
 - *When a coworker takes credit for your commendable efforts.*
 - *When a friend wants to take out another loan from the "First Bank of You."*
 - *When a disgruntled associate takes potshots at your reputation via social media.*
 - *When someone in need is looking to take whatever you can offer.*

YOU HAVE HEARD

Matthew 5:38 (NKJV) *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*

- Jesus' quote is found in multiple texts in the Old Testament (Ex 21:24; Lev 24:19-20; Deut 19:21).
- This was known as the "Law of Retaliation" or "Lex Talionis."
- This was given to limit excessive punishment and ensure that "the punishment should fit the crime."
- The Rule of Law was to govern society, rather than vendettas, leading to a never-ending cycle of vengeance and chaos. (HATFIELD AND MCCOYS)
 - Human justice and restoration matter, but they were to be applied by God's rules.
 - And God's standard was to ensure proportionality to the crime or violation.
- So, Jesus summarizes an Old Testament law that was to guide judges in proportionate justice.

BUT I SAY

- Before we get started, in Jesus' responses, He is not addressing:
 - the abused wife or child and telling them to suck it up and bear up under abuse,
 - or law enforcement, telling them to ignore criminal activity,
 - a government leader, or a military general, or the head of a company's HR department, who would be responsible for the safety and well-being of a nation or corporation, or company.

- He is addressing the individual who is in God's kingdom and instructing the individual on how they should respond in personal situations when something is being taken from them such as:
 - Honor
 - Basic necessities
 - Time and energy
 - Money or property

Handling Insults

Matthew 5:39 (NKJV) *But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*

- A slap in the face stings, it is insulting, and it speaks to indignity. A simple slap is not typically regarded as being physically damaging.
- Yet, the natural reaction is to slap back.
- The slap does not have to involve literal, physical violence.
 - Even in our day, a "slap in the face" is a metaphor for an insult or offense.
- Jesus is saying that the Kingdom way is not to retaliate.
- In this, Jesus communicates that the actions and attitudes of others do not control us so that we respond in like-kind.
 - Instead, God's life and kingdom values control us.
 - We are distinct, we are light, we are salt.
- Blessed are the *merciful*!
- Jesus is saying, instead of returning evil for evil, overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NKJV) *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Proverbs 24:29 (NKJV) *Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."*

- The following Scripture Paul provides the qualities of Kingdom Character.

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV) *Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

- Such a response establishes you as a person of authority and strength.
 - This is a kingdom posture made possible by kingdom strength by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Handling Lawsuits

Matthew 5:40 (NKJV) *If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.*

- If someone makes a claim against you, give them what they ask for and more.
- Instead of lawyering up against your neighbor, settle out of court and offer them more than they are demanding.
- This is not how you respond to a con-artist, but how you provide a Kingdom testimony to your neighbor and friend.
- A shirt and coat were valuable in the day; in fact, essential as the coat protected them from the night air and provided bedding for them.

Handling Exploitation

Matthew 5:41 (NKJV) *And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.*

- Under Roman law, a Roman dignitary or authority could demand that lower-class people assist them by hauling their luggage or equipment one mile.
- Naturally, people begrudged this inconvenience and loss of time to walk two miles (one there and one back).
- This was especially true if they resented Rome to begin with, as many Jews did.
- Jesus tells His disciples that any time a Roman official forces you to go one mile, do not go with him begrudgingly or because you 'have to' (v 41).
- Instead, you should go with him for two miles (actually four—two miles with and two miles on the return).

Handling Borrowers Requests

Matthew 5:42 (NKJV) *Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

- Here Jesus instructs not to turn away from the person who wants to borrow from you but rather be willing to lend.
- Here, God's kingdom is characterized by its constituents generously seeking the well-being of others, as seen in an Old Testament proverb.

Proverbs 3:27–28 (NKJV) *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.*

- Jesus contrasts this heart of generosity with the attitude of legal proportionality.
- Jesus' kingdom does not merely seek to follow the law and assert their legal rights, making sure everyone gets their just due.

JESUS' MODEL

In His Life

- Jesus suffered *insults, exploitation, and lawfare*. The legal system was used as a weapon against Jesus.
- How Jesus directs those in His kingdom to live, He modeled for us.
- Peter speaks to this in his first letter.

1 Peter 2:23 (NKJV) *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed [entrusted] Himself to Him who judges righteously;*

- Jesus lived out what He taught throughout His life and ministry!

In His Death

- It was in the suffering around His death that Jesus' kingdom model for responding to injustices shone the brightest.

1. **Jesus was struck across the face.**

Matthew 26:67 (NKJV) *Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands,*

- How did He respond? He offered not only His other cheek, but His head, back, hands, feet, side, to the point of spilling His blood.

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

2. **He willingly offered up His garments, all of them.**

Matthew 27:35 (NKJV) *Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."*

- In exchange, He gives white robes of righteousness.

Revelation 7:9 (NKJV) *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

3. **Directed to walk** – carrying His cross. And He went more than the second mile!
 - He went all the way to receiving God's judgment against our sin.
4. **Always called upon to give.**
 - His throne room is always open and His arms wide to receive us.

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

- Jesus set forth the model for kingdom culture! It is one of generous mercy and grace.
- Did Jesus respond to injustices the way He did out of weakness and pacifism?
 - He had infinite, omnipotent resources and power at His disposal.
 - His responses were out of strength!!

APPLICATION

- The concept of “turning the other cheek” is a difficult one for us to grasp. Allowing a second slap after being slapped once does not come naturally.
- This requires true transformation, versus mere religious rule-keeping.
- Turning the other cheek does not imply pacifism, nor does it mean we place ourselves or others in danger. (Jesus and Paul both escaped danger.)
- He was not setting government foreign policy, and He was not throwing out a judicial system of justice.
 - Crimes can still be prosecuted, and wars can still be waged to protect a nation.
 - But the follower of Christ need not defend his personal “rights” or avenge his honor.
- Jesus flips the world system of ‘justice’ on its head.
- This is at the heart of His kingdom. This is the mercy principle Jesus shared in the Beatitudes: "Makarios (blessed) are the merciful for they shall receive mercy."

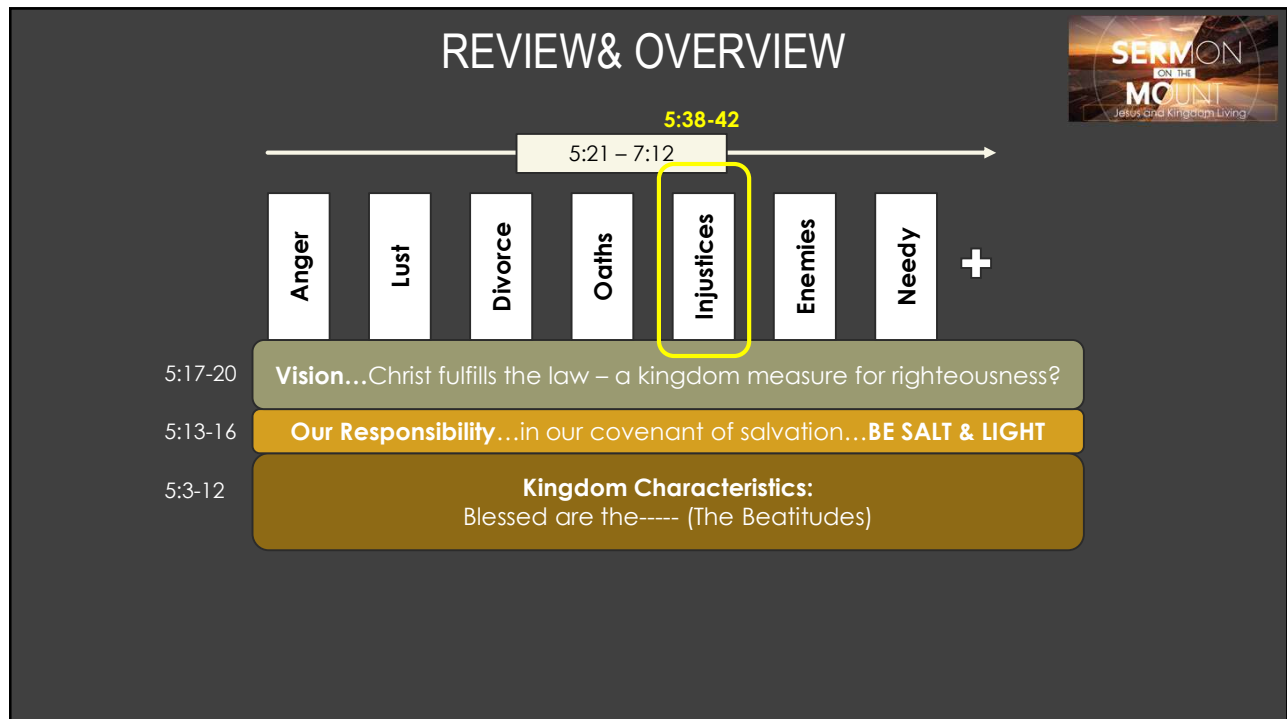
Spiritual Transaction

1. **Humble ourselves** before God regarding those who have offended or violated us?
 - To demonstrate the grace Jesus has shown and extended to us.
 - Any person or situation stand out that you need to
2. **Confess ways** that you have been exacting and harsh in reprisal toward others (name them), little or no mercy or grace, instead of the generosity which we have received from Jesus.
3. **Shine as light under the exploitation of others.**

May others see the light of Jesus' grace through the grace we offer them.



1



2

YOU HAVE HEARD



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The "Law of Retaliation" or "Lex Talionis."

3

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Handling Lawsuits



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Handling Insults

Handling Lawsuits

Handling Exploitation



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- Handling Lawsuits
- Handling Exploitation
- Handling Borrowers Requests



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JESUS' MODEL In His Life



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JESUS' MODEL

In His Life

In His Death

*Struck across the face**Gave up His garments – Gave us new garments*

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JESUS' MODEL

In His Life

In His Death

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JESUS' MODEL

In His Life

In His Death

*Struck across the face**Gave up His garments – Gave us new garments**Directed to walk – carrying His cross*

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JESUS' MODEL

In His Death

Struck across the face

Gave up His garments – Gave us new garments

Asked to walk – carrying His cross

Always called upon by others to give



Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

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APPLICATION

SPIRITUAL TRANSACTION

1. Humble Ourselves Regarding Those Who Have Offended or Violated
2. Confess Ways We Have Been Exacting and Harsh in Reprisal
3. Shine as Light Under the Exploitation of Others



May others see the light of Jesus' grace through the grace we offer them.

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