

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

New Kingdom Relationships

Matthew 5:21-26

Slide 2:

Matthew 5:21–26 (ESV)

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Slide 3:

In Jesus we see what righteousness really is, the intent of Adam and Eve, and all humanity.

Slide 4:

6 Visions of Righteousness

Relationships (vs 21-26)

Physical Integrity (vs 27-30)

Marital Integrity (vs 31,32)

Word Integrity (vs 33-37)

Retaliation (vs 38-42)

Communal Love (vs 43-47)

Slide 5:

Theological Frame:

Matthew 5:20 (ESV)

Matthew 5:48 (ESV)

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Slide 6:

I. Necessity of Righteous Relationships

II. Underlying Principle for Righteous Relationships

III. Magnitude of Righteous Relationships

Slide 7:

The Necessity

The Father chooses His children, and so, the other children are necessary

Slide 8:

"We have a long journey to go.

You must ride on me."

And he crouched down and the children climbed on to his warm, golden back, and Susan sat first, holding on tightly to his mane and Lucy sat behind holding on tightly to Susan. And with a great heave he rose underneath them and then shot off, faster than any horse could go, down hill and into the thick of the forest.

That ride was perhaps the most wonderful thing that happened to them in Narnia.

Slide 9:

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV)

You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Slide 10:

"In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets. Now that

that Charles is away, I have less of Ronald."

Slide 11:

"We possess each friend not less but more as the number of those with whom we share him increases. In this, Friendship exhibits a glorious 'nearness by resemblance' to Heaven itself where the very multitude of the blessed (which no man can number) increases the fruition which each has of God. For every soul, seeing Him in her own way, doubtless communicates that unique vision to all the rest. That, says an old author, is why the Seraphim in Isaiah's vision are crying 'Holy, Holy, Holy' to one another (Isaiah 6:3). The more we thus share the Heavenly Bread between us, the more we shall all have."

Slide 12:

The Principle

Heartlessness is Murder

Slide 13:

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'"

Slide 14:

At least 3 other ways to "murder."

1. Anger (orgizo)
2. Call raca
3. Call moros

Slide 15:

The Law judges the acorn, not the tree

Slide 16:

The Magnitude

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

The Magnitude of Personal Responsibility

Slide 18:

The vision is a mirror that shows us our ugliness, but how can we be cleaned?

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read the text, Matthew 5:21-26. What is Jesus saying about relationships? How does this show a "greater righteousness" than the Pharisees and scribes?
2. Have you ever considered brothers and sisters in Christ to be "necessary" relationships? Why or why not? How does our culture work against that understanding?
3. In what ways are our relationships with one another necessary for a correct (and fuller) relationship with God? Can we see and experience a "fuller" God inside of a "fuller" community covenant? Are there scriptures that come to mind?
4. Can you explain the "acorn" idea? (If murder is an oak tree...Jesus is not explaining a new law, but helping us to see the "acorn" of murder. Isn't it correct to hold up an acorn and call it an oak tree? Is it anything else but that, just not realized?)
5. How is this different from the way we address sin in the church?
6. Talk about the idea that we are all personally responsible for this "Law." Comment on the uncomfortability of knowing that there is no circumstance that releases us from "going after" reconciliation.
7. So...how can we be the "right" acorn?
8. Prayer and praise