

Sermon on the Mount

– 6 –

Training Your Heart in Righteousness

Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV) 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- God’s laws are a blessing.
- Society without laws is chaos and anarchy.
- You have freedom but not total freedom.
- Adam – don’t eat the fruit of the tree.
- David said the boundaries have fallen for me in pleasant places.
- “Change your behavior and the heart will follow” don’t work.

Matthew 5:27-30 (ESV) 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that

everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

- “I’m just looking.”
- Discipline
- Not self mutilation – cut it off.

Matthew 5:31-32 (ESV) 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- Men were divorcing wives for any reason.
- Stop throwing away your marriage for no reason.
- Sexual immorality – porneia – any sexual activity outside of marriage. Not a mistake but intentionally repeated behavior without repentance.

Matthew 5:33-37 (ESV) 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let

what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

- Have integrity and character that your word can be believed.
- There needs to be evidence in my life of what I say and what I do.

Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV) 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

- Eye for an eye – This was for courts and the judicial system. They brought it into personal relationships to have vengeance back and forth.
- Don’t escalate the violence.
- 2nd mile service. Roman Soldiers could conscript Jews to carry their armor for them 1 mile and you had to do it by law.

Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV) 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love

those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Can you love people who are hard to love?
- You don't earn points for loving people who are easy to love.
- The lord is not impressed with the external stuff that impresses other people.
- How can I be perfect like God? Jesus makes us perfect.