

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 5:21-48 | The Sinfulness of Sin
October 2, 2022

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 5.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

For the past several months, we have been studying the life of Jesus through the *Sermon on the Mount*.

The Sermon on the Mount is the first Sermon Jesus preaches in Matthew's Gospel.

It is by far the greatest Sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher ever—who just happens to be our Lord and Savior.

As you look at your Bible, Matthew chapter five, I'd like to review what we've learned so far in this chapter before we move forward today.

I want you to see the overall flow of topics as Jesus preaches.

In ^{Verses} Matthew 5:1-9, Jesus starts His Sermon by preaching the Beatitudes.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus taught us how to pursue true happiness.

However, these ways are not human ways—they are heavenly ways.

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, humbling ourselves, and having mercy on others are just a few examples of what Jesus taught about human happiness in the Beatitudes.

^{We learn how}
Jesus first teaches about character.

^{Also}
Jesus clears up all the rumors about who He is and what He is doing.

And He did that by not giving more laws or teaching something new—

He did that by upholding the law that Moses gave from the beginning and fulfilling the prophecies in the OT.

We learned how Jesus is the theme of the entire OT.

We ^{witnessed} ~~learned~~ how Jesus is on nearly every page of Scripture and how He came to fulfill every law not only by human works but by His Divine nature.

And after Jesus taught us about the reliability of the Bible, He then taught us about the reality of Heaven.

We asked this question, “How do you get into Heaven?”

Most people answer that question “*by being good*”—and then we discussed what kind of good?

What’s the definition of good?

Is Mother Theresa good? Is Billy Graham good?

And we discovered through our study that as good as those people are—

All the good that Mother Theresa and Billy Graham have done for humanity—

That their human goodness is not a substitute for God’s demand of divine perfection.

How good do you have to be to get into Heaven?

Jesus told us in verse 20 from last Sunday.

It's almost like He knows people won't believe Him as He gave the answer on how to get into Heaven last week.

So, today Jesus peels the layers back on the illusion of our own goodness.

In the following twenty verses, Jesus exposes what's deep in our hearts.

We hear this all the time—*"Follow your heart."*

Today, Jesus is going to show us why that is awful advice.

Now before we dive in, I need to make a disclaimer.

Typically, I would take the next section of Scripture and explain it verse by verse.

And I do this because Scripture tells us that we experience God by knowing His Word verse by verse, line by line.

Isaiah 28:13—*The word of the Lord will come to them:*

*"Law after law, law after law,
line after line, line after line,
a little here, a little there,"*

And that's why our mission statement says this—

"Experiencing God...(How?) Verse-by-Verse" Why?

So that you can "Share Jesus...Day-by-Day."

That's what we're all about here at River Bible Church—disciples making disciples, fulfilling the Great Commission.

But, as I was studying this passage, I noticed that Jesus does something staggering for the rest of Matthew Chapter 5.

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:21-48 CSB

Matthew 5:21— “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.

Matthew 5:22— But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister will be subject to the court. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.,

Matthew 5:23— So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

Matthew 5:24— leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:25— Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.

Matthew 5:26— Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

Matthew 5:27— “You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery.**,

Matthew 5:28— But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:29— If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:40— *As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well.*

Matthew 5:41— *And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.*

Matthew 5:42— *Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

—
Matthew 5:43— *"You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor,** and hate your enemy.*

Matthew 5:44— *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

Matthew 5:45— *so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

Matthew 5:46— *For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same?*

Matthew 5:47— *And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same?*

Matthew 5:48— *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

***This is the Word of the Lord for River Bible Church.*

EXEGESIS:

One of the overarching themes of this particular text is personal relationships.

We see a rhythm to Jesus' Sermon throughout this entire section.

And the reason for that is that they didn't have a Bible in their hands to read for themselves.

And if they did have a Hebrew Bible, they couldn't read it.

After the Israelites returned from their captivity in Babylon, they no longer spoke Hebrew—they spoke Aramaic.

So, the Jews depended entirely on the scribes and the Pharisees to teach them the Word of God.

This is why Jesus says, "***You have heard that it was said....***"

In other words, "This is what you have been hearing; this is what you've been told."

"But I tell you...."— Jesus is correcting the false teachings of the scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus is telling the disciples that they have been lied to.

Jesus bypasses the human interpretations and the traditions of the scribes and Pharisees and takes everybody back to the basics.

Example
Matthew 5:21— "*You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.*"

We all know that! That's why we hear so many people compare their goodness to mass murderers.

Wow, that's a low bar—but look what Jesus does...

Matthew 5:22— "*But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.*"

Jesus is teaching us that God's law has always stressed the importance of dealing with our hearts.

That's why it seems that Jesus is raising the standard - but He's not. But the Bible teachers ignored this fact. The heart issue - they didn't deal w/ motives & agendas. Scribes/Phar

Why? Because religion is much easier than a relationship.

Religion in the sense of a mechanical form of worshipping God.

In other words, just give me a to-do list so I can get this God thing over with and get on with my life. - that's religion. - sense of duty - not love.

And it's in the to-do list to where we been taught—*As long as I don't kill anybody, I'm good.*

And Jesus says, *No, you're been lied.*

And a primary reason that so many of us as a culture are unhappy, depressed, and angry is that we've haven't addressed the true condition of our hearts.

The law doesn't start with our actions and behaviors.

God's laws start with our thoughts, motives, and our attitudes.

The whole purpose of the law is to show the sinfulness of our own sin.

And it's right here where I wanted to pause and provide an overview of this text.

Because if we don't understand, recognize and deal with the sinfulness of our own sin—we'll never grasp the reality and the consequences of Jesus' Sermon.

Many of the problems that we have in our personal lives, families, and within the church are because we take little time to study and mediate on the sinfulness of sin.

And when they sinned, they ran from God. They *hid*.

They tried to withdraw themselves from the presence of God—how sad.

Gen 3:10 is one of the most disturbing ~~verses~~ verses in the Bible.

ADAM/EVE They tried to physically conceal themselves with itchy fig leaves from another tree.

They wanted to be left alone—don't we all after we sin?

Adam and Eve ran from the sunlight into the darkness.

They wanted to keep their actions a secret. Why?

Because sinful actions have major consequences.

So, of course, they hid, right?

They willfully and consciously rebelled against a holy God—the Supreme Being of the Universe.

Adam and Eve did the one thing they were not supposed to do.

② And we've been doing the same thing ever since—It's called the fall of mankind.

① This deliberate and conscious choice to eat from the tree that God specifically told them not to eat from— is an example of *sin*.

③ By its simplest definition, sin is rebellion.

Here's the thing—Adam and Eve's first sin didn't come from the physical eating of the fruit.

Their sin came before that. — And That's The Key That unlocks the power of Jesus' sermon

+ Keypoint #2 — Sin is A decision we make before the action we take.

Psalm 51:5— Indeed, I was guilty when I was born;
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

Adam’s sin has been passed down to all of mankind.

This is called inherited sin, original sin, or ancestral sin (Rom. 5:12).

The easiest way for us to understand this kind of rebellion is to simply hang out in a room full of children.

My office in Phoenix used to be next to a preschool.

One day I was walking to my truck and heard this from the playground:

“JOHNNY, don’t even think it!”

About two seconds later, I heard a little girl start crying.

Evidently, Johnny hit this little girl, threw something at her, or pushed her down specifically after he was told not to.

Why? Did someone teach him that?

No. Johnny ^{made his decision} hit the girl because of *inherited sin*.

Just as God told Adam not to eat from a specific tree, Adam did it anyway.

Just as Johnny was told to leave the girl alone, he refused and rebelled.

So, Adam...Johnny...you and me—we’ve all rebelled—nothing has changed since Genesis 3.

Selfishness? Violence? ~~Disrespect~~ ~~Disrespect~~ Are the fruits of The Fall.
We don’t have to teach children how to be rebellious; they just are.

A false Bible teacher

The world points to social issues, political differences, socioeconomic factors, educational elements, race theories, blah, blah, blah.

Dear friends, that's called the Social Gospel today.

But God teaches the very opposite.

Jesus doesn't put an adjective before His Gospel.

God teaches through the Scriptures that man is a fallen creature because his heart is morally corrupt.

Dear friends, we are all a rebellious people. — We don't need false Bible teachers telling us

that we're not. And that's why Jesus makes the correction here w/ scribes & pharisees

→ We are disobedient. We don't want anyone telling us what to do.

2:12
Jude 10
Jesus dealt w/ false teachers & so must we — especially on the subject of sin

We are stubborn, pushy, rude, presumptuous, and arrogant.

As fallen human beings, we love unrighteousness and demand autonomy.

We are born demanding freedom—and are hostile toward anyone and anything, which hints at taking away the illusion of our freedom.

What are the first two words children learn? “No” and “Mine.”

Who taught them that? No one! It's his nature.

Just as dogs bark and cats meow, sinners sin.

Scripture goes on to say that sin is an abomination.

The word abomination is probably the most appropriate word for sin.

It means foul, vile, or disgusting.

Wow, we think... Are we really that bad?

If not, why would Jesus preach on these things?

So next week, we are going to learn the power of the Gospel through the Forgiveness from anger.

If you struggle with anger—maybe you're mad and don't even understand why—you don't want to miss next Sunday.

God's Word will free you up.

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Romans 11:33—*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

Blum, Edwin A., and Trevin Wax, eds. 2017. *CSB Study Bible: Notes*. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

Blomberg, Craig. 1992. *Matthew*. Vol. 22. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Boice, James Montgomery. 2001. *The Gospel of Matthew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Bruce, F. F. 2014. *Matthew*. Open Your Bible Commentary. Bath, UK; Nashville, TN: Creative 4 International.

Crossway Bibles. 2008. *The ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Doriani, Daniel M., Hans F. Bayer, and Thomas R. Schreiner. 2021. *Matthew–Luke*. Edited by Iain M. Duguid, James M. Hamilton Jr., and Jay Sklar. Vol. VIII. ESV Expository Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Doriani, Daniel M. 2008. *Matthew & 2*. Edited by Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani. Vol. 1. Reformed Expository Commentary. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. *Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*. Vol. 1. San Antonio, TX: Ariel, 2017.

Gaebelein, Frank E., D. A. Carson, Walter W. Wessel, and Walter L. Liefeld. 1984. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*. Vol. 8. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Hendriksen, William, and Simon J. Kistemaker. 1953–2001. *Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew*. Vol. 9. New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1985. *Matthew*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 2013. *One Perfect Life: The Complete Story of the Lord Jesus*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

McGee, J. Vernon. *Thru the Bible*. Vol. IV. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1982.

Morris, Leon. 1992. *The Gospel according to Matthew*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.