

Matthew Chapter 5

"The Sermon on the Mount"

- The Sermon on the Mount is a teaching on practical Christianity. (Theme)
 - **Casual reading Vs: in-depth study.** Isaiah requires more study than Matthew. In-depth study always reveals more, but the casual reader can gain much from the Gospels by simply going through them.
 - Expressing the mind of Christ – “God’s intent”
 - Not expressing the Gospel message per se, but certainly showing the need for the Gospel / salvation.
 - Also shows the need for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to accomplish these truths spoken by Jesus, directed at “believers”.
 - Ideals for a future time? Or are these lessons to be applied to or lives today?
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V: 1-2 Seeing the multitudes, Jesus had compassion upon them / for them and seeing the need, He set out to prepare the disciples to minister to them.

Romans 10:13-14 ¹³For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Matthew 9:37-38 ³⁷Then saith He unto His disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.”

Mark 3:13-14 ¹³And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto Him whom He would: and they came unto Him. ¹⁴And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach.”

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

Apostles: “sent out ones”

- This message was primarily to the disciples & believers, not to the world at large.

V: 3 This begins a list of what the characteristics of a disciple are.

- *“Poor in Spirit”* – doesn’t mean sad or forlorn, but spiritually destitute or bankrupt.
- Sinners who understand their state and see their need.

Romans 3:10 & 23. “As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.”
“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Luke 18:10-14 “¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

V: 4 *“Blessed are they that mourn”* Seeing the truth about ourselves causes us to mourn over our condition, to grieve over our own sin.

Isaiah’s vision of heaven:

Isaiah 6:1-5 “¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ²Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. ⁴And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵Then said I, woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.”

Isaiah 61:1-3 “¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that

mourn; ³To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified,”

John 16:20; 22. ²⁰Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.” – ²²And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.”

2 Corinthians 6:10 “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

V: 5 *“Blessed are the meek”* The revelation of God brings with it the revelation of self, the result is humility.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ²⁶For you see you calling, brethren, how that not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

Psalms 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Meekness is a fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

- “Meek” is “praus” in Greek (G-4239), mild, humble, the same word that is used when a stallion is broken and rideable. Power under control.

V: 6 *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.”*

Matthew 4:4 “... man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere / pure milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

Job 23:12 "... I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

Psalms 42:2 "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God."

Psalms 63:1-2 "1 O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee; my soul thirsteth for Thee; my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is. 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

- Now, when we seek [His](#) righteousness, that is salvation!

V: 3-6 **Follow the progression:**

1. Realize our status – sinner.
2. Mourn over our condition, which leads to repentance.
3. Repentance leads to humility, and to meekness.
4. Causes us to seek the righteousness of Jesus for the remission of #1 and salvation.

- We can't hold, or be filled with righteousness until we empty ourselves of sin.
Burger, fries, and a shake before dinner?

V: 7 "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*"

Jesus teaches us to pray...

Matthew 6:12 "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Matthew 6:14-15 "14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

V: 8 *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it.”

Proverbs 28:26 “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”

Psalms 139:23-24 ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; ²⁴and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

1 John 1:7, 9. ⁷“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” — ⁹“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just for forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken to you.”

Ephesians 5:26 “That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

Ezekiel 36:26 “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.”

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and He that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

- Can't see God? Check your heart.

V: 9 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”*

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

V: 10 *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.”*

- For righteousness sake Vs our own fleshly behavior.

Acts 5:40-41 ⁴⁰... and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”

1 Peter 4:14 “If you be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified.”

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

- Sometimes this persecution is affirmation or confirmation that you are actually headed in the right direction and that the enemy doesn't like it!

V: 11 *“Blessed are ye when men revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.”*

- Again, why? Because of Jesus, or our own peculiar behavior.

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

Jesus told us:

John 15:20 “Remember the word that I said to you, the servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also.”

Acts 6:9-15 Stephen accused of blasphemy. **T/T**

Matthew 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

- **More often than not, this seems to be the case within the church.** Other Christians who take exception to our “fanatical” – “fundamental” application of God's word to our lives.

V: 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,”

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations / trials; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

V: 12b *“for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”*

Stephen:

Acts 7:51-52

“⁵¹Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. ⁵²Which of the prophets have not your fathers not persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers,”

V: 13 *“Ye are the salt of the earth:”* - referring to His disciples.

- Like salt, either you will have a purifying effect in the world, or you'll be crushed under the feet of the world.
- No refrigeration, salted meat kept bacteria / decay at bay.
- Salt promotes thirst (**V: 6**), it preserves, it cleanses, and it heals.
- Salt that loses it's savor: compromise.

Ezekiel 3:16-21 **Turn to:** (page 1218)

V: 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

John 8:12 *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*

- If we're abiding in Him, then we're reflecting Him to the world around us – and in that sense we're the light of the world.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 *“²Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: ³forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”*

Philippians 2:14-15 *“¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”*

V: 15 *“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.”*

V: 16 Good works glorify God! – (When we give Him credit...)

1 Peter 2:11-12 “¹¹Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; ¹²Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Matthew 12:33 “Either make the tree good and his fruit good, or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit.”

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

- Christian: noun – name – should be a verb: action.

V: 17 Moses went up on a mountain to get the law; Jesus called His disciples up to a mountain to explain it.

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Romans 10:4 “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”

Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;”

Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- You can destroy an acorn a couple of different ways.
 1. You can use a hammer and smash it to bits.
 2. Bury it in the ground, allowing it to die like a “seed”, let it fulfill itself and become a tree, like the tree of life!

V: 18 God’s Word is eternal, and it will all come to pass.

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

Joshua 23:14 “And behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”

- Christ is the ultimate fulfillment:

Acts 3:18 “But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all His prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.”

Psalms 40:7 “... Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”

Speaking to the religious leaders:

John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

V: 19 Reading, teaching, and breaking of God’s commandments.

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters / teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation / stricter judgment.”

Luke 12:48 “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much be required.”

Matthew 18:6 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

James 2:10 “For whoso shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

- Shall be called least in the kingdom of Heaven.
- “least” – but still in the kingdom of Heaven.

BUT:

- He that does and teaches the same, shall be called great.

God’s instruction to Moses:

Exodus 18:20 “And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

V: 20 “...*except your righteousness shall exceed...*”

- What’s the difference between their righteousness and hopefully ours?

Answer: Law Vs Grace, fake Vs Real, self righteousness or the righteousness of Jesus!

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; we all fade do as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Romans 10:1-10 (T/T) Christ, the end of the Law for righteousness.

- The real issue was that the religious leaders had all the appearance of righteousness, but it was only skin deep and it was all their own; self righteousness.

Matthew 23:27-28 ²⁷Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. ²⁸Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

- At first glance this must have appeared to be an impossible condition, but it was much smaller than they thought.

Speaking to the religious leaders:

Mark 7:6-9 ⁶He answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

Romans 10:3 “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted unto the righteousness of God.”

- Practical illustrations and application of His teaching up to this point. Or just in case you thought you met the requirements of the Law.
- Jesus deals pointedly with the issues of the heart.

V: 21 This verse begins an illustration of six items shown in contrast.

- “It has been said...but I say unto you...” Jesus is showing the contradictions between the common teaching of the day and the intent of the law.
- The “spirit of the law” as opposed to the letter of the law.
- God’s intent as opposed to what was commonly taught.

“Ye have heard that it was said...”

- The common people didn't have access to the scriptures, there weren't very many copies and the religious leaders were the only ones who had access to them.

“Thou shalt not kill / murder” - 6th Commandment.

- Murder: the taking of human life with malicious intent.

V: 22 Unreasonable anger.

1 John 3:15 “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness / lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery / witchcraft, hatred, variance / contentions, emulations / jealousies, wrath / outbursts or wrath, strife / selfish ambitions, seditions / dissensions, heresies, ²¹envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- “Anger” in Greek:
 1. “Thumos” = flair up, like a match, a flash of anger.
 2. “Miseo”, to detest (espec. to persecute); to love less.
 3. “Orgizo” = burning with anger, brooding, continuing.

“Orgizo” is used in this verse.

- When excited against sin, it is lawful. God is angry with the wicked.

Psalms 7:11 “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

- Jesus looked on the hypocritical Pharisees with anger.

Mark 3:4-5 ⁴And he saith unto them, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. ⁵And when He had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, He saith unto the man, stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”

- So it is said, be ye angry, and sin not, **Eph 4:26**. This anger, or indignation against sin, is not what our Savior speaks of here.

- The anger that is spoken of here is without a cause; that is, unjustly, rashly, hastily, where no offence had been given or intended. In that case it is evil; and it is a violation of the sixth commandment, because he that hates his brother is a murderer, **1Jn 3:15**.

1 John 3:15 “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

- He has a feeling, which would lead him to commit murder if it were fully acted out.

James 1:19 “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

“*Judgment*” (H2920). krisis, kree'-sis; decision by extens. a tribunal; accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment.

“*Raca*” means, “empty headed fool”, showing total contempt, judging.

- By putting someone else down that way, we automatically elevate ourselves – we are by implication smarter than that – prideful.
 - The Hebrew language does not possess the words or ability to curse, use profanity. When they want to cuss they have to switch to English or some other foreign language.
- This was considered a word of contempt or abuse, anyone doing so was subject to the “Council”.
- Meaning they would be brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high council for judgment.

“*Thou fool*” (H3474) moros, dull or stupid, blockhead, impious, godless,

- Here the word means more than just a dunce, it signifies a “moral fool” who ought to be dead, and it expresses the wish that they are.
- Today it is common to hear a person cursing another with the words “God damn you!” He is calling on God to consign that person to hell.
- Jesus says that the one who utters such a curse is in danger of hell fire.

“*Hell fire*” = Ghenna, the deepest part of hell. The only court that can send you there is God’s judgement.

- The bottom line is that we're all guilty before God. The law was intended to drive us to that realization, driving us to the cross of Jesus.
- The Pharisees interpretations were not doing that.
- There is no mistaking of Jesus' words on this. He is teaching that anger contains the seeds of murder, that abusive language contains the spirit of murder, and that the cursing of another implies the very desire to murder.

V: 23-24 If we offend someone, whether by anger or in some other way – there is no use in bringing our offering or sacrifice to God – the Lord won't be pleased with it.

- The offender should go and make things right.
- Make peace, seek to make peace, make things right with your fellow man, and you will be able to make things right with God.

Romans 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as it lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

- When you're at the altar, on your knees, making your sacrifice and God speaks to you about a situation – obey the Spirit.
- This doesn't mean to drag up every negative incident over the years, but just those things that the Lord puts on your heart.
- Biblical resolution in conflict situations: Acknowledge guilt or trespass, acknowledge forgiveness.

V: 25-26 An out of court settlement is best, because it's just between the parties involved, especially when it's believers.

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 Its better the settle things between ourselves, even better to be defrauded than to be a bad witness in this world.

V: 27 *“Ye have heard that it was said”*

- The Jewish religious leaders taught according to the traditions of the fathers. They quoted reputed Rabbis and repeated opinions, which formed their traditions.

[Turn to Mark 7:6-9](#)

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶He answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

- Jesus rebuked them for placing more credence in their traditions than in the Word of God. (**Mk. 7:6-9**).
- What they had heard, these traditions were not having the intended effect.
- The intent of the Word of God is to bring men to repentance.

Psalms 19:7-9 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

“Thou shall not commit adultery” – Exodus 20:14, the 7th Commandment

- This expresses the letter of the law.

V: 28 *“But I say to you...”* Authority – the power of the King.

Issues of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Romans 3:10 “As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;”

- A person might be proud that they had not broken the commandment, and yet have a heart full of adultery.

2 Peter 2:14 “Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children.”

V: 29-30 Deal with sin immediately and decisively.

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

Mark 9:45 “And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.”

- Eyes – what you see, watch.
- Hands – what you touch.
- Feet – where you go, who you walk with.

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Psalms 101:3 “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;...”

Job 31:1 “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?”

1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance / form of evil.”

Habakkuk 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon wickedness.”

Romans 6:12-13 “¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

- Maintaining an un-defiled thought life:

Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Colossians 3:2 “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Romans 15:6 “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

V: 31-32 Speaking of the Laws of marriage:

Genesis 2:23-24 “²³And Adam said: this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh.”

- As such, when two are molded into one flesh, it is difficult to separate the two, and impossible to do without significant damage and pain to both parties involved.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 “¹When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. ²And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man’s wife. ³And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; ⁴her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.”

- The Pharisees were divided into two camps:
 1. School of Shammai – conservatives.
 2. School of Hillel – liberals.

It all hinged on how they defined un-cleanness: adultery, found not to be a virgin, bad cooking...
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Shammai: Took **Deuteronomy 24:1** literally, could only divorce due to “uncleanness”, which has been interpreted as adultery, but really means literally: nudity, nakedness, disgrace, shame – which would require a written certificate of divorce.

- If someone was actually caught in adultery they were to be stoned.

Leviticus 20:10 “And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.”

Hillel: Interpreted un-cleanness as all of the above and more. Poor cooking, appearance, or being displeasing in many ways, including by comparison. If the husband saw another woman that appeared more “virtuous” than his own wife it was grounds for divorce.

- There was no writing or certificate required, simply saying “I divorce you” three times were sufficient and official.

(V: 31-32 cont.)

- Divorce then as now was done for just about any frivolous reason.
- According to Jesus, the only valid reason for divorce is adultery.

No provision for women to divorce men.

Dowry was alimony in advance, just in case.

Matthew 19:4-9 “⁴The Pharisees also came unto Him, tempting Him, and saying unto Him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause. ⁴And He answered and said unto them, have ye not read that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? ⁶Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. ⁷They say unto Him, why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? ⁸He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

Sadly divorce was very common then, just as it is now. Essentially [we play the way we practice](#).

Dating:

Marriage: Is a model of our relationship with God, it is Biblical, eternal / permanent, 1-1 monogamous, God ordained, spiritual.

Dating: Is a model of our relationship with the world. It is not Biblical, it is temporary, based on multiple relationships / polygamous, world ordained / cultural, fleshly.

Malachi 2:13-16 “¹³And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that He regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. ¹⁴Yet ye say, wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. ¹⁵And did not He make one? Yet had He the residue of the Spirit. And wherefore one? That He might seek a Godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. ¹⁶For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”

1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise husbands, dwell with them / wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

- Treachery / treacherously: (H898) bagad, baw-gad', to cover (with a garment); fig. to act covertly; deal deceitfully; treacherously; unfaithfully.
 1. characterized by faithlessness or readiness to betray trust.
 2. deceptive, untrustworthy, or unreliable.
 3. unstable or insecure, as footing.
 4. dangerous; hazardous: *a treacherous climb*.
- We're not there yet, but the next issue that Jesus addresses is about keeping our word, keeping our vows:
- What about wedding vows?
 1. (Man)_____ in the sight of God and these witnesses, do you take (Bride) This woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?
 2. Will you live together with her after God's Holy ordinance of matrimony?
 3. Will you love, honor, and Cherish her, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health?
 4. Forsaking all others? Keeping wholly unto her as long as you both shall live?
 - Many of us are familiar with Hebrews 13:5 / context of marriage.

Hebrews 13:4-5 ⁴“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. ⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- Just because divorce is justifiable, or allowed in a given situation, doesn't mean that it is the best option, or the only option.
- The scriptures that relate to forgiveness, mercy, and grace are applicable to every part of our lives – the only unforgiveable sin is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- Hopefully the issue is more along the lines of a lack of repentance as opposed to a hardness of heart.
- Notice as well that there is a difference in verse 28 / adultery in one's heart as opposed to verse 32 which uses the term “fornication” – Jesus drew a distinction between the two.

V: 33-37 Quoting from **Leviticus 19:12**, truthfulness, honesty, keeping our word.

Leviticus 19:12 “And ye shall not swear by My name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 23:21-23 “²¹When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. ²²But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. ²³That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.”

Psalm 66:13-14 “^{13b}... I will pay thee my vows, ¹⁴which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.”

- Truthfulness & honesty

9th commandment:

Exodus 20:16 “Thou shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor”

1 Peter 3:10 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”

Psalm 15 “¹Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ²He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. ⁴In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. ⁵He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.”

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers.”

James 4:15 “For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

V: 38 Quoting **Exodus 21:24**

Leviticus 24:19-20 “If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him – fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.”

- Letter of the law vs: spirit of the law – grace?
 - Friends, accidents
 - Malice / intent

Jesus is our perfect example: Hanging on the cross Jesus said:

Luke 23:34 “... Father forgive them, for they know not what they do...”

1 Peter 2:21-23 “²¹For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: ²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. ²³Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.”

2 Timothy 4:14 “Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord reward him according to his works.”

V: 39 Resist not evil... don't fight it physically.

- Learn to let things go – we don't need to defend ourselves on every point.
- If we are struck, we're not to strike back – physically or verbally.

Psalm 62:6 “He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

V: 40-42 Pertains to our attitudes about our possessions and our will, don't hang on too tight.

Rich young ruler:

Mark 10: 17-27. Matthew 19:16-24

- Poor choice, yes.
- But Jesus loved him anyway.

Colossians 3:23 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,”

This includes the things that we don't want to do - Re-direction / our will.

Proverbs 30:8-9 “⁸Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- We don't have to give everything away – that would be un-reasonable – but we're to have a right perspective on what we do have, we're not to be stingy.

V: 43-45 Quoting **Leviticus 19:18**, they left out the part about “as yourselves”.

Leviticus 19:18 “Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord.”

- “hate your enemy” – Pharisees took this out of context from **Deut. 23:3- 6**

Proverbs 25:21-22 “²¹If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: ²²For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.”

V: 44 Jesus corrects, the purpose of prayer is two fold.

1. To change us and our hearts.
2. To change the situation.
3. Not to change Him or His will. – because he doesn't change.

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not;...”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Jesus - leadership by example:

Romans 5:8-10 “⁸But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

V: 46-47 *Reach out to others!*

Luke 14:12-14 When you give a dinner...

V: 48 Summary: “Oh you already do all these things?” Then be perfect, as God is perfect.

- The point is that we cannot be perfect, not without Jesus!

Genesis 15:6, 17:1 **Romans 3:23**

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”