

September 7, 2016

Series: Building a Kingdom Culture

Message: Matters of the Heart, Part 2

Text: Matthew 5:21-48 NIV

SIX (6) AREAS

1. Murder (Anger) – v.21 (**Reconciliation**)
2. Adultery (Immorality) – v.27 (**Purity**)
3. Honoring the Commitment to Marriage – v.31 (**Honor**)
4. Making False Commitments (Keep Your Word) – v. 33 (**Truthfulness**)
5. Retaliation (Defensiveness) – v. 38 (**Give**)
6. Love Your Enemies (Response to Mistreatment) – v. 43 (**Love**)

III. Honoring Marriage/Commitment – v.31 (HONOR)

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Pharisees/Culture: Again, Jesus confronts what the Pharisees and the law of Moses taught and gives us God’s intent for this command.

Heart Matter: God’s intent was that we don’t disregard the covenant of marriage. Pharisees believed that as long as it was legal, then everything was okay.

In fact, there were many reasons why men were “putting away” their wives. Jesus confronts this with clear reasons and exceptions, which are here stated “adultery” and “desertion.”

Kingdom: Marriage is a covenant is made between two people; one of 3 institutions that scripture provides as ordained by God, (**Government and the Church**). The original prescription and ordination by God is that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Society can change it to whatever it wants – but **God’s clear anointing is on the one He established and defined.**

Overcoming Principle: Let’s honor what God has ordained and not apologize for what the Word teaches. (we don’t have to be mean spirited, bigoted in our behavior; we can be respectful and allow people to exercise their rights – but I can also exercise my right to believe in and follow God’s way.

IV. Oaths/False Commitments – (Matthew 5:33-37)

*³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne;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 swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷ **All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.***

- a. **Pharisees:** They were good at distorting the Mosaic law or the third command, Ex. 20:7 “**not swearing falsely**” or “**taking the Lord’s name in vain.**” They taught that the law forbade using God’s name in vain but not making vain commitments. Only vows made in the name of the Lord, were binding and vows that were not, were not binding.

This law, as they saw it, forbid profanity – but not dishonesty!

- b. **Heart Matter:** Jesus addresses the Pharisees who were quick to make a promise and then break it. They’d make rash/quick vows and do it before God.

Kingdom: Jesus teaches this principle, the original intent by God – honor God’s name, keep all your commitments and be truthful in what we say.

c. **Overcoming Principle:** God has called us to live life with integrity:

1. We are accountable to God for whatever commitments we make
2. Be truthful in what you say
3. Do not promote yourself in a false way
4. Do not manipulate people for personal advancement or gain.

V. Retaliation/Defensiveness – Matthew 5:38-41

³⁸ “**You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’^[b] ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist (fight back) an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.**”

- a. **Pharisees:** They taught that the law commanded revenge, thereby empowering people to act in wrong ways and in the wrong spirit to resolve their conflict.

- b. **Heart Matter:** The Issue is how do we resolve conflict.

In the Kingdom:

-Jesus taught do not take revenge

-Jesus taught do not fight back (this is not unqualified resistance; there are things we must resist (evil in our world today; abused child, wife, evil forces in the earth).

-This is not fighting back against evil or someone is beating the living daylights out of you or bullying you – turn the other cheek.

-This is not a call to Pacifism – we are to defend ourselves and others from evil men. (Evil – someone with evil goals and motives to do you harm)

-The spirit of this verse is: Do not live your life in a spirit of revenge, defensive posture over small matters that bother you.

- Someone didn’t say something right to you.

- Little arguments; constant turmoil

- Living in bitterness and **broken relationships**

- Can’t be given truth without thinking about how you’re going to get back at them

-**Turn the other cheek:** not physical injury, implication is insults (verbal); particularly in small matters.

Stupid, petty things people say – let it go!

1 Pet. 2:23 – When He (Jesus) was reviled, did not revile in return ...

-Sued for your shirt; Go the extra mile; Borrow from you: Again, this relates to small matters. People using the legal system for “shirt-like” garments. Some things are not worth the fight.

The issue is “smallness” and “offense in small matters.” Everything does not need to be heard by the Supreme Court.

- c. **Overcoming Principle(s):** Let’s fight the real battles and leave the little skirmishes that destroy our relationships under the blood. Show and Give grace in as many matters as you can; especially because it may be an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ.

VI. Response to Mistreatment (LOVE) – Matthew 5:43-48

*⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^[j] and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ **But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for (bless) those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

Overcoming Principle(s): We must operate in the opposite spirit of our enemies by actively loving them, instead of passively avoiding them.

1. Love your enemies: Be active (active love, pray) it makes the greats impact on them and on us. We open ourselves up for supernatural things to happen in our lives. (Romans 12:14-21)
Romans 12:14 – Bless and do not curse
Romans 12:19 – Do not avenge yourself
Romans 12:20 – If your enemy is hungry, thirsty, heap coals of fire on his head.
Romans 12:21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
2. Be like our father: Give grace to all, be a blessing
3. Pursue the eternal reward: Have a biblical perspective (trust God)
4. Be perfect: Walk in all the light that God gives; pursue 100% obedience.