

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/2-3/20 2021 *Matthew Chapter 5***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew!**

***Chapter 5 – THE BEATITUDES – (vs. 1-12) believers Are SALT AND LIGHT – (vs. 13-16); CHRIST FULFILLS THE LAW – (vs. 17-20); Murder Begins in the Heart (ANGER) – (vs. 21-26); Adultery in the Heart (LUST) – (vs.27-30); Marriage Is Sacred and Binding (DIVORCE) – (31-32); Jesus Forbids (OATHS) – (vs. 33-37); Go the Second Mile (RETALATION) – (vs. 38-42); (LOVE) Your Enemies – (vs. 43-48)***

***Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,***

***2Pe 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,***

*2Pe 3:1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),*

**REVIEW:**

**Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds**

*Mat 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

*Mat 4:24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

*Mat 4:25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*

***The Sermon on the Mount***

***Mat 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.***

- **The Sermon on the Mount is the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest preacher** that ever preached. We need to keep three things in mind: Context; Who the sermon was preached to; The purpose of the sermon
- **To whom was the sermon directed? It was to His disciples and to us!** The Sermon on the Mount was not directed for the world, not for the unsaved! It is entirely wrong for the unbelieving world to hear and respond in the world way toward it, coming to the wrong conclusion that Jesus was giving mankind some nice, moral principles to live by. That if we live by these nice, moral principle, we can somehow make ourselves acceptable to God and righteous enough before God, that we can then warrant an entrance into heaven on the basis of our own work! That is a complete violation of the revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit.
- **Jesus is instructing us as Christians of how we are to conduct ourselves in the light of the fact that we are already Christians.** Now as Christians and citizens of His kingdom, how are we to think, to act and to speak? It is not, live like this, and you will be a Christian. It is because you are a Christian now, the live like this! As believers, we have been moved from one kingdom to a new kingdom, the kingdom of God! The Sermon on the Mount teaches us exactly how we are to conduct myself as citizen, as a representative of this kingdom!
- **This sermon was delivered to the disciples.** Jesus spoke to His disciples, with His eyes on the multitude. His eyes area still on the multitude, to the people that are not yet saved, not yet in His Kingdom. His heart is still there. With us, to be sure.. but He speaks to us, not only that we would be blessed, but then that we would be a place as the body of Christ, where this great multitude of people with their messiness and their sinfulness, where are they going to come? They are going to come to who is the body of Christ today, which is Christians all around the world!

***THE BEATITUDES***

***Mat 5:2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:***

- **He had left the multitudes,** went up into a mountain with just His disciples, and there He sat down and began to teach them a message **specifically for His disciples.** He begins with the description of what constitutes a disciple, the characteristics of a disciple.

**Beatitudes –**

- **These are the “attitudes” that ought to “be” in our lives, because we are of the Kingdom of God!** Before He ever gets to actions and doing, He begins with our heart. He begins with our attitudes. Attitudes are important. God wants us as citizens of His Kingdom to have an attitude that is something where people look at and say, this person consistently has a good attitude, which causes them to be curious about the God that we serve.
- **Nine times He repeats the word “blessed”, so you have the recipe** here for a *blessed* life. For an “oh, how happy” life! Our Savior here gives us the characteristics of blessed people; which represent to us the principal graces of a Christian.
- **Eight characteristics of the Christian – *the poor in spirit; those who mourn; the meek; those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; the merciful; the pure in heart; the peacemakers; those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.***

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- **On each of them a present blessing is pronounced; *Blessed* are they;** and to each a future blessing is promised, which is variously expressed, so as to suit the nature of the grace or duty recommended.
- **On mount Gerizim and mount Ebal**, the curses are expressed, and the blessings only implied; here the blessings are expressed, and the curses implied: in both, life and death are set before us

**Mat 5:3 "Blessed (*makarios* – supremely blest; oh how happy; all are in the present tense) *are the poor* (beggar) *in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* (33x – used only in Matthew)**

- **The first characteristic** is "*poor in spirit.*" This speaks of humility, as opposed to pride.
- **That's the entrance into the kingdom of heaven.** Now *being poor in spirit* comes as an **inevitable natural consequence of seeing the Lord and the truth of the Lord.** You really do not see yourself until you see the Lord, then seeing yourself in the light of the Lord. The effect on you is being *poor in spirit.* You see a man who is proud, a man who is pompous, a man who really thinks he is something, has not yet really seen the Lord. You cannot see the Lord without that feeling of (*Isa 6:5*) "*Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips...For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.*"

**Mat 5:4 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.***

- **The second follows** in natural progression. *Blessed are those who mourn.* We *mourn* over our family, our friends, over their spiritual needs of those who not yet know the Lord! We care about them. This speaks of an empathy and a compassion, for the world. Concerned of the horrible price that unbelievers are paying because of the fall of Adam and Eve. That is a healthy *mourning.* When we experience this kind of *mourning,* God will comfort us!
- **Seeing the truth about myself brings me to tears.** I'm worse than I thought I was. When I see myself in the light of the Lord, it creates that brokenness in my heart and that weeping over my sinfulness. But *blessed are they who mourn,* see the truth about themselves, are repentant because, ***For they shall be comforted.*** The Lord will minister to them and comfort them.

**Mat 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.* (Mat 11:29) *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Num 12:3) (Now the man Moses was very humble (meek), more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)***

- **Following in progressive order, *Blessed are the meek.*** This speaks of gentleness. ***For they shall inherit the earth.*** We don't have to fight for the world. One day it is all going to be delivered for *the meek!*
- **This is far from the worldly philosophy today.** A *meek* person is really not admired by the world but is looked down and run over by the world. We say, "He'll never get anywhere. You've got to get out there. You got to be aggressive. You got to push." Jesus said, "***Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.***
- **Now in the light of the recognition of the truth** about myself as I see myself in the light of the Lord. The true revelation of God brings a true revelation of self. It creates within me ***a hunger and a thirst after righteousness.***

**Mat 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.***

- **This speaks of holiness, a strong desire for and a hunger and a thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. I realize that my righteousness is as filthy rags** because I see myself as God sees me. I realize that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells no good thing., that in my flesh I cannot please God. **But in seeing Him, I see the ideal and I long for the ideal! I hunger and thirst after righteousness,** His *righteousness.*
- **Every one of us has the relationship with God that we want.** God says, you draw near to Me, and I will draw near to you. The relationship that each of us have right now is a relationship that we've determined to have. He will meet us anywhere. He will meet us and give us the deepest relationship that we want, which is wonderful to realize!
- **The first three beatitudes** are what might be considered negative characteristics: *poor in spirit, mourning, meek.* They bring me to the *hungering and thirsting after righteousness.* Now the next characteristics, are positive kind of things.

**Mat 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.***

- **If we are merciful to others, God is merciful to us!** Then people are *merciful* to us as well.
- **A little further on in the sermon, Jesus speaks about how we are not to judge.** For in whatever measure, we meet--the standard of judgment that we have and hold for other people--**that's the standard of judgment by which we will be judged.** Thus, it pays to be *merciful.* ***Blessed are the merciful.*** Now, in showing *mercy,* kindness and forgiveness, it is quite possible that you are showing *mercy* to a person who really doesn't deserve *mercy.* It is possible that you are in error in showing *mercy* to some people.

But if I am going to err, I want to err on the side of *mercy* rather than the side of judgment. I would rather be *merciful* and be wrong, than be judgmental and condemning, and be wrong. No one will ever be wrong showing *mercy*!

***Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.***

- **There is not only outward purity. An inward purity allows us to see God.** Sin is like seeing a four wheeled drive vehicle that has been off the trail and it's completely covered with dirt. Even after the windshield wipers, there is still a muddy film that you can't see through it. That is what sin does to our lives! It blurs our vision of God and prohibits us from seeing all of His beauty and all of His glory!
- **The Lord said that man looks on the outward appearance and God looks on the heart.** David said, (*Psa 139:1, 23*) *O LORD, You have searched me and known me. [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties.*
- **God searches the hearts of man.** The scripture says, "*Blessed are the pure in heart,*" and the glorious reward, "*for they shall see God.*" It is in that purity of heart, in that simplicity and *purity of heart* that a person really comes into a real recognition and consciousness of God. You begin to really see God. It's that being *pure in heart*!

***Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.***

- **The Bible tells us, (*Rom 12:18*)** *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* As a Christian, I am to be a peacemaker. All of these characteristics are characteristics that I should possess as a Christian. These are characteristics that were manifested in the life of Jesus Christ. The word "Christian" literally means Christ-like. If I am like Christ, these will be the characteristics that will be manifested in my life.
- **If you have a person who possessed these characteristics;--** He's *poor in spirit*. He *mourns* over his own sin. He is a *meek* person, but he *hungers and thirsts after righteousness*. He's *merciful*. He's *pure in heart*. He is a *peacemaker*. What do you think the attitude of the world will be towards this man? Will they admire him, saying there goes a real man?" **No, the world doesn't admire such a person, the world persecutes such a person because that kind of a person makes the worldly person feel very uncomfortable.**
- **Jesus possessed these characteristics and what did they do to Him?** You see, this is not a way to win friends and influence people, because these characteristics really don't draw you a lot of friends in the world. What it does draw is persecution. Jesus said, "*If they did not receive Me, they're not going to receive you.*" Having manifested these characteristics, He was too straight for them. They said, we've got to get rid of Him!

***Mat 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

***Mat 5:11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.***

- **This is the greatest paradox of all, and peculiar to Christianity;** and therefore it is put last, and more largely insisted upon than any of the rest.
- **Now note that, "persecuted for righteousness' sake."** There is no blessing in being *persecuted* for being a dummy, obnoxious, arrogant, or proud! This is *persecution* for simply being a Christian and walking in the things of the Lord. When the world *persecutes* us for living for Christ, then that becomes a badge of honor that they recognize we are a part of another kingdom and a threat to their lifestyle! The more wicked the world becomes, the more they *persecute* those of the kingdom of God. It actually becomes a badge of honor. It's the fact that they recognize the difference. ***Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*** Here is the key word, "*falsely*" for *My sake*. Notice the qualifying "*for my sake.*"

***Mat 5:12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (*Joh 15:20*) Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (*Rom 8:18*) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

- **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.** Earlier, *yours is the kingdom of heaven*, but now, *great is your reward in heaven*, because *they persecuted the prophets who were before you*, like them.

- Read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, by W. Grinton Berry, once a year!

## SALT AND LIGHT

**Mat 5:13** *"You are (you, alone, emphatic) the salt of the earth; but (used 15X in this chapter -many contrasts) if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

- **Now Jesus speaks of that influence that we are to have** in the world in which we live. He declares to His disciples:
- **You, (alone, emphatic, imperative!) are the salt of the earth:** In those days, salt was used as a preservative. Not having refrigeration, when they butchered meat they would salt the meat heavily because salt would kill the surface bacteria of the meat and would prevent it from rotting. It was also used as a seasoning, as we use it today.
- **When Jesus said, You are the salt of the earth,** He was probably referring to this preserving quality of salt, that retarding of the rottenness or putrefying of the meat. Believers are to have that kind of an influence in the world. The world is a rotten place. But the church, the Christian, in the world, should have a preserving influence, a preventing of that rottenness. **Salt also does make one thirsty.** Your life should be creating a thirst in others for Jesus Christ. Is my life making others thirst for the Lord Jesus Christ?
- **But if the salt loses its flavor,** its saltiness, its effectiveness, **how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.** They would take the salt that had already been used or lost its effectiveness and they would throw it in the pathways, because salt would kill the vegetation. Thus, it is trodden under the foot of men. Jesus is saying, in effect, that either be a purifying effect or you're going to find yourself crushed underfoot by a rotten world.
- **We Christians are alone to be the salt of the earth!** Not the Jehovah Witnesses, not the Muslims, not the Buddhists, the Hindus, nor the secular humanists! **Christians alone are the salt of the earth.** No other religion is ever going to do or be what I, we're intended to do what we are to do. We are irreplaceable, in the advancement of God's Kingdom, because we possess the one thing that makes us distinctive from everyone else in the world. That is the Holy Spirit inside of our lives. What a miracle it is to be born again by the Holy Spirit! We can't even describe, in words, the difference between a life that is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and one that is not, in terms of the capacity to do something for God and make a difference for God! We are not being told this to make us think we are superior to others, but He is telling us with His eyes on the multitudes!
- **With sobriety and a sense of responsibility, recognizing what an opportunity** is ours because of Christ. Yes, that is true about us, as Christians. That is true about me as a Christian. I embrace this being the **salt of the earth!** Whenever one loses their saltiness, how long can they stand against the tidal wave of the world?

**Mat 5:14** *"You are (you, alone, emphatic) the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

- **"You are the light of the world!"** Can you imagine? Here are these disciples there in this little portion of Galilee. Jesus is looking at them there on the hillside, and He's saying, **"You are the light of the world."** The world doesn't even know we exist.
- **Notice that there are not words in light or in taste!**

**Mat 5:15** *Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

- **You can't really effectively hide your relationship with God.** Nor are you to hide it or try to hide it! The purpose of **light** is to **give light.** Thus, **as the light of the world,** the purpose of your life is to bring light, to give light in this darkened world in which we live.

**Mat 5:16** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **You can't hide it!** A city on a hill can't be hidden! It's supposed to shine! You don't put it under a bushel. But **"Let your light so shine!"**
- **That they may see your good work!** That is where your light shines is in your good works. They don't glorify you. They don't say how wonderful you are. How great you are. How marvelous you are.
- **Both salt and light are influential in the environment in that they applied to.** That is what He is telling us that we are! How can I be that in the nitty and gritty of life? He has just shown us in the beatitudes! As the attitudes become our character, then this, as He describes salt and light, becomes our influence in the world! It's not in our own strength!

- **But glorify your Father in heaven!** Now you can let your light so shine in such a way as you attract a lot of attention to yourself. Let your light so shine that when men see your good works that God is glorified! We see in the life of Jesus, as He would work His miracles, the people would go away glorifying God. That's the way your light is to shine. When people see the works, they go away, and they glorify God. They say, "Oh, isn't God wonderful?"

### **CHRIST CAME TO FULFILL THE LAW**

**Mat 5:17** *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets (Old Testament). I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

- **Keeping the issues straight concerning the relationship to the law.** The Law of Moses has not been destroyed by Jesus, but, in fact, has been fulfilled by Him! Many people today speak disparagingly concerning the law, saying, "We're no longer under law, we are under grace." There's nothing wrong with the law of God, the law is holy, it is righteous, it is good. The only problem with the law is that we can't keep it! **The law** was never intended by God to make you righteous. **The law was intended to show you what is righteous and to make you realize that you're a sinner.** It is by **the law** that we have the knowledge of sin.
- **The law was intended by God to be a schoolmaster,** to teach you the way that God would have you to live. **To help you to see how far short you come so that it would drive you to Jesus Christ.** A proper understanding of the law always brings me to the cross. It drives me to Jesus Christ for that righteousness that can only come by Him, through faith in Him, by His grace and by His **mercy** unto me.
- **Jesus said, "I didn't come to destroy that, but I came to fulfill it."** And He fulfilled it! He became the sin offering for us. (**John 1:29b**) *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* Whereas the priest used to have to offer sacrifices daily, Jesus offered Himself, once and for all, for our sins in fulfillment of the law.

**Mat 5:18** *For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

**Mat 5:19** *Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

- **Looking at the moral law of God, there is no fault in it.** (**Deu 6:5**) *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.* Do you have a problem with that? Loving God? I find that very commendable. I want to love God completely!
- (**Exo 20:13-15**) *"You shall not murder. [14] "You shall not commit adultery. [15] "You shall not steal.* I believe that! It's wrong "**You shall not kill.**" I believe that you're not to murder people. "**You shall not commit adultery,**" I believe that.
- **There is nothing really wrong with the law.** Many speak of the law in such a disparagingly way. But the law is really good. Grace is no excuse for not keeping the law!
- **One may say, "Well, I'm under grace, so I can do whatever I want.** It doesn't matter, I'm under grace, brother." But you are misusing grace! You are taking the scripture to your own destruction because you're using grace as a cloak for your righteousness. Grace doesn't excuse us from the law. It's not a pass or an indulgence.

**Mat 5:20** *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

- **Then Jesus gave the shocker,** talking about the law. You immediately think about the Pharisees because these guys spent their whole lives trying to keep the law. Jesus said, (**Mat 21:31b**) *Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.*
- **Jesus didn't have much use for the scribes and the Pharisees.** *Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees!* What's wrong with their righteousness? It was all outward. It was all a show. Their attitudes were rotten. They were filthy inside, but the outward was all polished and clean. It was just an outward righteousness, but it wasn't something in their heart and life.
- **Now Jesus is going to give us six things where He's going to compare the teaching of the law** as was taught by the scribes and the Pharisees, **with what God intended** when He gave the law. **Six contrasts: ANGER; LUST; DIVORCE; OATHS; RETALIATION; LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**

## ANGER

**Mat 5:21** *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'*

**Mat 5:22** *But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council (Sanhedren). But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*

- **You have heard** If you murder someone, you are going to be in danger of the judgment of God! **But I say to you**, In contrast, this is what you've been taught. Now, doesn't the law teach that? Yes, the law says *You shall not murder.*
- **But Jesus said**, "*I say to you, that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.*" It is anger towards a person that leads to murder. When you're angry and upset and you feel like I like to hit them, it's already there in your heart.
- **Whoever shall say to his brother, Raca.** That was a disdainful word. "You fake, worthless person." It is that attitude of just looking upon another person and not regarding their rights. To say, "*Raca, "will be in danger of the of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!*" (Look with total disdain and say, "He's worthless, he's a fool), *shall be in danger of hell fire.*
- **It isn't just clubbing someone to death. It's having anger!** It is having an attitude of disdain towards a person, not respecting them at all. He's a fool! Those are the seedbeds of murder. Those are the attitudes from which murders spring, not having a high regard for life, or in other person's life. So, Jesus said, if you have these attitudes, you're guilty of violating the law.

**Mat 5:23** *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,*

**Mat 5:24** *leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

- **Here is when the closest distance** between two points is not a straight line. **Make things right with your fellowman.** Then you can make things right with God.

**Mat 5:25** *Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.*

**Mat 5:26** *Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.*

- **Make peace! Seek to make peace.** Don't hold issues in abeyance against others. Settle them!

## LUST

**Mat 5:27** *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'*

**Mat 5:28** *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- **Second Issue – Lust – Adultery - 'You shall not commit adultery.'** Isn't that what the law says? Oh yes, it definitely does!
- **You can be guilty of committing adultery without ever having a physical contact** with another person. Jesus is adding the internal! It can be something that is going on in your heart. Sin begins in the heart. The outward action is only the fruition of that which is in the heart. (*Jas 1:13-14*) *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. [14] But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires (lust) and enticed.*
- **There's where it begins. It's in your heart. It's in your mind to do these things.** When it's in your **heart** and in your mind and you're playing with it, you cuddle it, you entertain it, you begin to fantasize. It is only a matter of time until it will be fulfilled outwardly. You've already taken the step within your **heart!**
- **Now these issues are so vital that Jesus suggests very severe measures.** He doesn't intend that they be taken literally but it's just to give force to what He is saying. It's for shock value. It's to help you realize just how important it is that you keep your heart and mind pure because you can be destroyed eternally. Your eternal salvation is far more important than any momentary pleasure on this earth!

**Mat 5:29** *If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

- We are repulsed by the idea. Jesus didn't mean that literally because you could still be looking through your left eye. But He's just seeking to emphasize how important it is that we do not open the gate through the eye to lustful, arousing passions. Be careful what you see.

**Mat 5:30** *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

- Again, it's just a shocking thing but Jesus is emphasizing you don't want to be cast into hell. It would be better to be mutilated than to be cast into hell. Again, you still have your left hand. It is not a literal kind of a thing. He's just giving strong, strong contrasts!

## **DIVORCE**

**Mat 5:31** *'Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'*

- **Divorce is a difficult issue.** Under the law, God declared that if a man found uncleanness in his wife, he could give her a writing of divorcement. **Divorce** for the man was very easy. All he had to do is write it on a piece of paper, "I divorce you" and hand it to her. Women did not really have any rights in that society. That's why the dowry before marriage, which really was alimony in advance. If he kicks you out, you can go home to daddy. He kept the dowry. He can take care of you.
- **If you find an uncleanness... but, it didn't define the uncleanness.** They began to define what uncleanness meant. There were two basic schools. One said, moral uncleanness. When you marry her, you discover that she wasn't a virgin, then you could divorce her. The other school thought that uncleanness is when she doesn't fix you breakfast like you like. Or any little trivial thing. You can say, "Oh, I'm just tired of you." I find in you an uncleanness and he'd write her a bill of divorcement. They were very exacting on that writing.

**Mat 5:32** *But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

- When we get further on in Matthew chapter 19, Jesus will amplify the teaching on divorce. At that time, we will amplify it.

## **OATHS**

**Mat 5:33** *'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'*

**Mat 5:34** *But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne;*

**Mat 5:35** *nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.*

**Mat 5:36** *Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.*

**Mat 5:37** *But let your (word) 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your (word) 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*

- Jesus is basically saying you shouldn't have to take an oath to affirm what you're saying is true. It is only because you probably are not a person of your word that people want you to take an oath. Now taking oaths, swearing by God, I'll do it or whatever, was a common thing, or I swear by the gold in the temple, or I swear by Jerusalem, or whatever. Jesus said, be a person of your word! Don't take oaths. Do not confirm what you say, but when you say yes, mean yes! When you say no, mean no! Be a person of your word.

## **RETALIATION**

**Mat 5:38** *'You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*

- Under the judicial law, that's the way it was. If you break someone's arm deliberately, your arm would



be broken. If you put out somebody's *eye* deliberately, Your *eye* would be put out. If you knock out a *tooth*, they would knock out your *tooth*. That was the judicial law. *Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth*. You've heard that, that's what it has been said, and they were teaching that as an obligation.

**Mat 5:39** *But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*

**Mat 5:40** *If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.*

**Mat 5:41** *And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.*

**Mat 5:42** *Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

- **These scriptures cause a lot of confusion because they are easy to misinterpret** so as to make them ridiculous and impractical. Jesus never said anything ridiculous or impractical. If my interpretation is ridiculous and impractical, I have the wrong interpretation.
- **And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.** Israel was under the Roman rule. A Roman soldier who was walking down the road carrying his duffel bag could order you, under Roman law, to carry his bag for a mile. He would put his sword on your shoulder and say, "Pick it up and carry it." Under law had to carry it a mile. That's all the farther you had to carry it. a mile. Jesus said if **they are compelling you to go a mile, go two.** Go the extra *mile*. How often do I do more than is expected of me?
- **In the extra mile, you'll have the opportunity of witnessing.** They will wonder why in the world are you going the extra *mile*! How come? How often in reaching out to help someone does it open a glorious opportunity to witness. Is this not always true? If you see someone in distress, stop to help them. That's so unusual, they'll want to know why in the world you stopped. That gives you a chance to witness about your love for Jesus Christ, and your concern for others and your love for others because of your love for Him. Whoever is in trouble, he is your brother, he is the one that you are to reach out and help. Is my conduct different from the world? Here again, am I normally looking to do more than asked, or just thinking how little can I do to get by?

## **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**

**Mat 5:43** *'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*

- The scripture doesn't really say, *Hate your enemy*, but this is what they were being taught. *Love* your neighbor, that is, another Jew; but hate every non-Jew. They were being taught really to *hate* the Gentiles, the non-Jews. You're to *love* the Jews, you're to *hate* the non-Jews.

**Mat 5:44** *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

**Mat 5:45** *that you may be sons of your Father 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.*

**Mat 5:46** *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*

**Mat 5:47** *And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

- **But Jesus said that you are not proving a thing. At this point, we are reading Jesus' interpretation of the law.** We realize He is bringing out the spiritual aspects. It is dealing with the inner man, the things of my spirit. Suddenly, I realize that I can't do these. It isn't in me to love my enemies. I have failed. I have violated the law.
- **This is basically what Paul the apostle said. That he thought he was a great law keeper.** He was a Pharisee, as far as the righteousness concerning the law, He was blameless! But when he came to the realization that the law was spiritual, he said, "I died, it killed me. I was condemned. I thought I was righteous by the law but when I realized the truth of the law that it was spiritual and I'm carnal, I have been keeping it physically, but I have violated it spiritually! I came to the understanding, this is something spiritual. I realize I failed! I've fallen short!"
- **That is exactly what God intends the law to do.** To make you realize your failure! You've fallen short! So that you will be forced to seek God, His forgiveness and His *mercy* and His righteousness, which He imputes to you through your faith in Jesus Christ.

**Mat 5:48** *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Eph 4:13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

- **How is it possible for you and me to be perfect?** We are accepted in Christ, in the Beloved.
- **Now, if it hasn't done it thus far, then the verse should clinch it!** We all need help! Although Jesus Christ, as fully man (and fully God), fulfilled this verse, we can't do it without Him.
- **We all need the grace of God. We all need the mercy of God. We all need the forgiveness of God.** We all need the Spirit of God and the strength of God and the help of God to be what God wants us to be. So shall you be the children of God. So shall you inherit the *kingdom of heaven*. I need God's help. I need God's strength. I need God's Spirit.

### **Closing Prayer:**

- **We recognize our own failure, our own weakness, the sinfulness of our lives, so Lord, wash us and make us clean.** Cleanse us, Lord, with Your cleansing and Lord, strengthen us and help us. Be merciful to us, Lord, we have failed to live up to Your standards. We've fallen short of what You want us to be. We openly acknowledge and confess our sins. We ask You Father, be merciful, Amen

### **Closing Song:**

#### **"THE LORD'S PRAYER"** (2:37)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Assignment for next week: Read Matthew Chapter 6***