



Sermon on the Mount
Sermon 4
Matthew 5:33-48

Sermon Study Guide
February 2, 2020

Review

Last week in our study of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mountainside", Jesus pointed to the fact that He had come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, not do away with them.

The summary of the Old Testament Law and the Prophets is to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. Much of the Jewish religion had been diluted and even twisted to focus on religious tradition and legalism, resulting in bondage for the people. As Jesus taught the people, he contrasted the religious traditions and their lower standard, ("you have heard that it was said..."), with the higher standard ("but I say..."), which focused on the heart of God's Law. These higher standards can be met in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Last week, we learned about Jesus raising the bar higher in the following areas:

- from don't murder, to don't harbor anger or insult or name-call
- from don't commit adultery, to don't even think lustfully
- from be kind when you divorce your wife, to don't get divorced at all

This morning, we will pick up where we left off, as Jesus continues to address areas where the bar needs to be lifted higher.

Read Matthew 5:33-37

- How did the religious leaders teach about taking an oath and the how did the leaders apply this teaching?
- What does Jesus teach about taking oaths?
- Why is important for us to speak carefully when we give an oath? (vs.34-37)
- What should be true about our speech? (vs.36-37)

- How are we to respond to the “higher standard” when it comes to giving an oath?

Read Matthew 5:38-42

- What was the original thought for “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”? (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20)

- What kind of people would be classified as evil here and what is the higher standard that Jesus taught? (vs.39)

- What qualities ought to replace those desires for revenge?
- Jesus is calling us to a higher standard where we do not worry about evening up the score or looking for paybacks. What does Jesus want us to do when someone is taking advantage of us?

To many Jews of Jesus' day, these statements were offensive because they certainly did not expect the Messiah to turn aside from violence. Since they were under Roman oppression, they wanted retaliation against their enemies, whom they hated. But Jesus suggested a new, radical response to injustice: Instead of demanding rights, give them up freely!

Matthew 5:43-48

- What was the old saying concerning your enemies?
(vs.43)

- What can you do to move toward Jesus in the various areas you have described?

Notes:

CrossRoads of Arlington

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The Year of the Bible

For information or questions, contact Gene-o Parenica

geneo1958@gmail.com 817-501-0212