



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-III, 5:21-32)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

JESUS & the LAW on murder, adultery, divorce

8.11.21

On MURDER (21-26)

On ADULTERY (27-30)

On DIVORCE(31-32)



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-II)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

Christ & the Law & the Christian (19-20):

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

How can we say that Jesus had respect for the law?

How can we do better than Pharisees and scribes?

Why are we tempted to be more like Pharisees & Sadducees? What is the danger?

What should be our attitude to the Scriptures? What is the promised blessing?

8.04.21

How did Jesus show respect for the law/the Word?

- By **obeying**
- By **defending**
- By **applying** (for example, during temptation, at the cross, chasing away money changers at the temple)

How can we do better than Pharisees and scribes?

- Have a **regenerated heart** (Ezekiel 36:37) that gives desire and power to obey. Recognize that law cannot save us (Galatians 2:21, Romans 3:20)
- Focus on the **internal state** of our heart rather than external appearance, actions, and rituals; Seek **approval of God** rather than men
- Recognize that our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) and we depend upon the **imputed righteousness of Christ** (II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 10:4 ... Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth)

Attraction & danger of being like Pharisees and Sadducees

Attraction

- Easier to follow rules & traditions, than obey with heart
- Pride ... we like to show-off and receive public cheers & recognition

Danger

- Fruitless, artificial, and dead life (Mathew 23:27-28, whitewashed tombs)
- No reward from God, if we are seeking praises of men (Mathew 6:1-6)

Our attitude to scriptures ... and the reward (19)

Do & Teach

...

you will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Sermon on the Mount (Part-III, 5:21-32)

Wednesdays
8-9 PM

JESUS & the LAW on murder, adultery, divorce

8.11.21

On Murder (21-26)

On Adultery (27-30)

On Divorce (31-32)

Recall from Mathew 5:17-20

1. Scriptures cannot be altered
2. Jesus came to fulfill the law, not to destroy it
3. Our righteousness **must exceed** that of Scribes and Pharisees

Jesus responds to the Law

On **Murder** ... Ye have heard (21) but I say (22)

On **Adultery** ... Ye have heard (27) but I say (28)

On **Divorce** ... It hath been said (31) but I say (32)

On **Swearing** ... It hath been said (33) but I say (33)

On **Retaliation** ... It hath been said (38) but I say (39)

On **Love** ... It hath been said (43) but I say (44)



On Murder & Reconciliation (5:21-26)

Before the Law (Genesis 9:6), Law (Exodus 20:13, Numbers 35:30).

What was Jesus perspective on **murder**? What is the connection between anger and murder? Why is it hard to enforce intent/thought? Why are hurtful words (ex. fool) like murder? Is anger ever justified? How can we control our anger?

What does Jesus teach us about **reconciliation** and settling disputes? Should we not use the courts and legal system? Why do we find it hard to seek or grant forgiveness? Does this teaching apply to war and capital punishment?

On Murder & Reconciliation (5:21-26)

²¹ **Ye have heard that it was said** of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²² **But I say unto you**, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

²⁵ Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

²⁶ Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Old Testament

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill

Numbers 25:30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses

Jesus perspective (21-22)

Jesus equates **anger** to **murder** (anger also triggers murder in many cases)

Anger without a cause or insults (Raca, fool) (22)

- Man is created in God's image (Genesis 9:6) so should not be insulted
- Punishment: Judgment, council, hellfire
- Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer (I John 3:15)

Lord is setting a higher standard for disciples and addressing the condition of our heart (anger & hatred towards others must be put away by the grace of God)

On Reconciliation & Resolving Disputes (23-26)

Reconciliation is more important than gifts or service (24) Cannot offer true worship with anger in our hearts or unresolved conflicts. It does not matter who is at fault.

- Settle anger quickly (Ephesians 4:26-27) Follow peace with all men (Hebrews 12:14-15)

Resolve disputes **quickly** instead of dragging it through courts (25);

- Quick resolution may reduce the punishment for wrongdoing; hard to get out once in prison without making full payment (26)

Scripture does not prohibit use of legal system and courts ... but recommends avoiding it (especially among believers who must reconcile on their own or seek the counsel of church elders)

Words hurt, stir up conflicts, anger & murder

Proverbs 12:18

The **words of the reckless pierce like swords**, but the tongue of the wise brings healing

Proverbs 15:18

A hot-tempered person **stirs up conflict**, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

Proverbs 22:24

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,

ANGER:
Refer to
extended
discussion on
Colossians 3:8

Enforcing intent of the heart/thoughts

We cannot judge what we cannot see or discern

Only God can perceive and judge the intents of our heart

- **I Samuel 16:7** for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
- **Ezekiel 11:5** for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.
- **Mathew 9:4** And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?
- **Revelation 2:23** And all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

On Adultery (5:27-30)

Law (Exodus 20:14,17; Deuteronomy 22:22)

What is Jesus perspective? (John 8:1-11)

Why does Jesus focus on the eyes rather than the act of adultery? Should we be mutilating our bodies to overcome sinful temptations? Is there a better way?

Mathew 5:27-30

²⁷ **Ye have heard** that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸ **But I say unto you**, That whosoever looketh on a woman (**to lust after her**) hath committed **adultery** with her already in his heart. ²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Old Testament: Adultery and Punishment

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife

Deuteronomy 22:22 If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel. (punishment depends on whether both are at fault or only man guilty as in rape, or whether before/after betrothal, 15-29)

Jesus perspective on adultery

Jesus focuses on the origin rather than physical act; Adultery **begins** in the eyes, heart, mind (ex. David)

- So we must control what we see, read, and mediate (James 1:14-15)
- **Job 31:1** I made a covenant with mine eyes;
- Jesus is again setting a higher standard for his disciples.
- Jesus chose to **forgive** the woman caught in adultery (John 8) ...
Love & Forgiveness are central to Jesus teachings;

Mutilation? (29-30)

No

We must take sin seriously and be willing to do all that it takes to overcome sin

- Resist the devil (**James 4:7**)
- Abstain from all appearance of evil (**I Thessalonians 5:22**)
- Mortify or put to death immorality (**Colossians 3:5**)
- Run away (Joseph, **Genesis 39:12**)
- Sacrifice the short term pleasure of sin (Moses, **Hebrews 11:24-26**)
- Offer ourselves as a **living sacrifice** (**Romans 12:1**)

On Marriage & Divorce

(5:31-32)

Law (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

What was God's original design for marriage? Is there a 'reasonable cause' for divorce? How can divorce be avoided?

Does Jesus/NT counsel us on building stronger marriages or creating justified pathways for divorce? (Mathew 19:3-11, I Corinthians 7:10-15, Ephesians 5:21-33)

Old Testament on Divorce, Deuteronomy 24:1-4

1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor 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. ² And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. ³ And 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; ⁴ Her 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.

On Marriage and Divorce, Mathew 5:31-32

³¹ **It hath been said**, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: ³² **But I say unto you**, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

God's original design for marriage

Man & woman **joined by God**, and **become ONE** (Genesis 2:24, Mathew 19:4-6)

- What God has joined, let no man separate (Mark 10:9)
- Marriage is honorable (Hebrews 13:4)
- Physical intimacy before wedding is not allowed (Hebrews 13:4)
- Marriage pictured as the glorious and eternal love relationship between Christ & the Church (Ephesians 5:22-32)

- Breaking ONE into TWO pieces will be painful
- Divorce permitted because of hardness of heart, not God's original plan (Mathew 19:8)

Christ and the Law on Divorce

- **Legal grounds** for divorce exist in our courts (such as incompatibility), but Lord does not approve it.
- **Mathew 19:9** suggests **permissible divorce**, but in the context of Matthew 19:8, it is not the best or desired first course of action.
- **Lord advocates for forgiveness and reconciliation** (even for unfaithfulness)
 - “The man who **hates** and **divorces** his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful (**Malachi 2:14-16, NIV**) (I Corinthians 7:10-11)
- Are there any exceptions (such as physical abuse)?
 - **Hosea** was asked to marry and pursue an unfaithful woman, Gomer (Hosea, 1 & 3)
 - **Rahab** the harlot married Salmon, and begat Boaz (husband of Ruth) (Matthew 1:5)

How to build strong marriages & avoid divorce ... some thoughts

1. Do not be unequally yoked
2. Follow God's divine order and principles (Ephesians 5:21-33)
... foster love + respect + forgiveness + mutual submission
3. Keep Christ pre-eminent and an integral part of married life (Eccl. 4:12)
4. Remain faithful to the oath taken on wedding day

Cs and Ds from recent weddings 😊

- Aamani/Rohit (7 Cs):** Common vision, cooperation, communication, cherish, compromise, commitment, contentment
- Asha/Jitu wedding (3 Ds):** Desire, Delight, Develop