

Matthew 5:21-48

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SERMON NOTES

Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

Matthew 5:21-48

Kingdom Living in a Fallen World

“The way is long if one follows precepts, but short and helpful if one follows patterns.”

- Seneca

“The real contrast in the section is between the meaning of the law according to Jesus and the meaning of the law according to religious tradition and the ancient teachers.”

- Sinclair Ferguson, *The Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Life in a Fallen World*

“Christ’s commandment contains the law, but the law does not contain Christ’s commandment. Therefore whoever fulfills the commandments of Christ implicitly fulfills the commandments of the law.”

- Scott McKnight, *The Sermon on the Mount*

Jesus focuses on the inner disposition of heart that leads to outer acts of either sin or righteousness. Examples:

1. Avoid anger, pursue reconciliation (v. 21-26)
2. Avoid lust, pursue sexual purity (v. 27-30)
3. Maintain fidelity in commitments (v. 31-32)
4. Keep your word (v. 33-37)
5. Respond with love toward those who persecute you (v. 38-42)
6. Be selfless in love (v. 43-48)

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

- *2 Corinthians 5:18-19*

“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in Him.”

- 1 John 3:15

We need less time on our devices and more time in the Word and on our knees.

“If this biblical story is not the one that really controls our thinking, then inevitably we shall be swept into the story that the world tells about itself. We shall become increasingly indistinguishable from the pagan world of which we are a part.”

- Lesslie Newbigin

“In a secular age such as our own, it requires an intentional effort to remember that we belong to Christ, and that belonging is not merely a doctrine, but a reality that touches every aspect of our lives.”

- Alan Noble, *You Are Not Your Own*

“Looking back over all six antitheses, it has become clear what the ‘greater’ righteousness is to which Christians are summoned. It is a deep inward righteousness of the heart where the Holy Spirit has written God’s law. . . . And this righteousness, whether expressed in purity, honesty or charity, will show to whom we belong. Our Christian calling is to imitate not the world, but the Father. And it is by this imitation of Him that the Christian counter-culture becomes visible.”

- John Stott