

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Sees In Secret

Matthew 5:33-6:4

Previously:

- Healings, Beatitudes, Salt & Light, Christ Fulfills the Law, Murder, Adultery, Marriage and Divorce
- Hard things
- **Not commands - we've seen that we cannot fulfill them in the flesh**
- **Instead: What our life will look like when we're full of the spirit**

Remember that this is the Lord speaking to us. Picture him on the hill, sitting there, right in front of you. Talking to you and me. Teaching us these things.

It's not condemnation. it's revelation.

[Pray]

5:33-37

Vow - a promise, a covenant by mouth

Deuteronomy 23:21-23 NKJV - "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. "But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. "That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Voluntary. Nobody is telling you to vow.

Jephthah in Judges 11 - *Vowed for the first thing to come out of his house be a sacrifice to the Lord - It was his daughter*

(whole 'nother lesson...should he have sacrificed his daughter?)

The flesh tends to make promises to God in an effort to get him to listen to us. He listens to us because of Jesus, not because of the weak and often distorted or selfish promise of a flesh that lives maybe 80 years...

Jesus says let it be simpler than that. Don't even vow or swear.

Of course no bad language is not swearing

Ephesians 4:29 NKJV - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

But that's not what's being talked about...

It's about being an honorable person. That your simple answer of yes or no is believable and trustworthy enough

"On my mother's grave!"

"I'll get you, I swear!"

We're trying to put more power into our words, because we know we're lacking

We know we're lacking the power, authority, witness, or faithfulness

But if we'd simply say what we mean and do what we'd say...our words would be full of authority.

Jesus goes one step further...what is more than these is from the evil one.

It's spiritual to go further...but not from the Holy Spirit.

These things are like lies...and lies are from the evil one.

Tell the truth. Tell the truth all the time.

Otherwise your words won't be believable.

Our Father is truth. And we should be known for being truthful. When we're consistently truthful, honest, and have integrity...**we reveal our Father.**

:38-42

The law required equal punishment for the crime.

This is justice.

You murder, take someone's life, you've forfeited your life.

Our society could learn something from this.

Rewarding crime, soft punishment - does not work.

We used to know this. But we've left God and his word.

God after all, is the ultimate judge.

But people were taking this and applying it personally.

And as believers, we have an opportunity to reveal God when we have a “right” to do something, but we don’t.

When someone disrespects you, don’t disrespect them right back

When someone wants to take advantage of you, you’re showing them they aren’t by giving them more than they tried to take

When doing a favor, or being forced to by obligation, go even farther out of love.

The point is - love goes farther than obligation.

In and of ourselves, we want to slap right back

Not give anything

But by the Spirit, we’ll use our unrighteous mammon, we’ll lay our lives down

TO reveal what God does every day. To reveal the gospel. To reveal the cross.

This is not teaching pacifism

This doesn’t mean that when injustice is happening, we go along with it

This does not mean you have no right to self defense or defense of others

This does not mean evil should not be resisted by force

What it means is that there’s a greater opportunity, on personal levels, to reach people with the love of God.

Proverbs 15:1 NKJV - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

But it is not loving to let evil have it’s way with those you love, uncontested.

Being compelled to go a mile - Roman soldiers could compel a citizen to help them carry their goods a mile

Doing these things reveals that we’re not doing things to obey simple civic laws, but that we’re under a higher law, we’re citizens of heaven, obeying the law of love.

:43-48

Loving your neighbor - someone near you, someone you share a property line with, someone you have to see every day, makes sense, even from a selfish point of view

Who wants trouble with their neighbor? Who wants to come home and not have peace?

Hating your enemy makes sense - they're your enemy, you don't hate your loved ones, you hate your enemies. It's just $1+2=3$.

And there is room to "hate" evil in the scripture, but not to hate people

I hate the evil done in our country, in our government, by those in power and those in public schools. But do I hate them? No, I pray not to. But I hate everything they do and will resist what they do that is evil.

Romans 12:9, 17-21 NKJV - [Let] love [be] without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ... Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Even the world loves those who love them and hate those who hate them

Tax collectors! The worst people in their minds

Jewish sellouts to the Roman government.

Selling their own countrymen to the "dogs" for money.

This is very obvious today. You are immediately hated if you don't go along with the world. If you oppose the world, in a loving way, it doesn't matter, they will hate you and claim you hate them.

Sometimes there is no winning with people.

No matter what you do, how you say it, how much you give, you're not going to "win" in this life

But it's not about winning in this life. This life isn't it. It's about winning them to the next life.

I'm not nice to people who don't like me because I like it, or I even want to do it - I try to continue on in it because I want them to have a good witness of what a Christian is.

You shall be perfect...

I'm not perfect! But if we can reveal God through this even a tiny bit, then it reveals that God is perfect. Loving even those who hate him. Blessing even those who murdered his son with forgiveness and grace and time to repent.

Romans 5:6-11 NKJV - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only [that], but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

God is perfect. He is the only one perfect.

James 1:17 NKJV - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Perfect, interesting definitions

- brought to its end, finished
- wanting nothing necessary to completeness
- perfect
- that which is perfect
- consummate human integrity and virtue
- of men, full grown, adult, of full age, mature

Complete, good, mature, nothing wanting

Do these things describe us?

A lot of times we fight back, we demand our own...because there's something lacking in us, there's something immature about us, we're missing something

And truthfully - what we're missing, is Jesus. There's part of us not given over to him. There's a desire we're trying to fulfill outside of His provision for us.

We're expecting others to give us the love, maybe they should give but won't, but we haven't relied enough on God's love to cover the lack of love of others.

God is perfect, and he will make us like him, when we give ourselves over to Him

6:1-4

Take Heed

- to bring to, bring near
- to bring a ship to land

- to turn the mind to, attend to be attentive
- to attend to one's self, i.e. to give heed to one's self
- give attention to, take heed
- to devote thought and effort to

Being charitable - giving out of love for God and others - actually takes effort, attention, and care to do correctly.

Because most of the time, we do it in a way to bring attention to ourselves

Jesus is bringing to light here - where our reward comes from - where real reward is
And it's with God the Father

If we're doing it for others to see, and reward us with praise, affection, attention, thanks...then we haven't done it for God to see us.

It reveals the reward we really care about.

There's this paradigm of giving and praying...in secret.

- Not openly.
- Not with the big check.
- Not with the loud prayer in the restaurant.

But so God sees - because that's who we're giving to when we give in secret.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV - But this [I say]: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [So let] each one [give] as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may have an abundance for every good work.

Acts 20:35 NKJV - "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Pharisees would ring a bell.

Widow's mite

Love doesn't need praise. Doesn't need to be thanked

When my kids thank me for taking them somewhere. I'm doing it so they have fun but also that I can have fun with them. It's not entirely selfless.

**Jesus is revealing that God wants to reward us
He wants to reward us more than others will
He wants to reward us openly.**

The best reward is when people see the Father through us.

**When they hear about Jesus from us, and we didn't even try.
They've heard about our words.
They've heard about our deeds.
They've seen us live up to the hype.
And we weren't trying to impress anyone.**

**It only happens when we get out of the way of what God wants to do
In our lives
And in others.**

**And there is great reward to be found in that
Even if it costs us a slap
Or a shirt
Or others not knowing how much good we're doing behind the scenes.**

**Heavenly reward is forever
Jesus wants to reveal that God has so much better in store for us than we can ever ask
think or imagine.**

"Himself reward you."

God himself will reward you. Personally. That's what we should be looking for in all of these things.

Sees in secret.

That this is a heart issue as well - it might look like charity on the outside, but on the inside it's selfishness. And God sees that even if no one else does.

So let's not look for repayment. Or respect. Or honor. Or glory. Or reward from others.

But the face of our Father with a smile and blessing in hand for us that the world cannot take away.