

## **But I Say to You**

Jesus Says: A Series on the Sermon on the Mount Part 6

*Matthew 5:21-48*

Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 10.11.17

### **We all like clarity.**

- I used to have a teacher who after assigning an assignment would ask, “Clear as mud?”
- We like clarity in relationships. When you’re “talking” with a guy or girl and someone asks, “What are y’all?” so many times you don’t know. You want clarity That why defining the relationship is very important.
- We like clarity in school. We always like it when homework assignments are clearly explained.
  - Open, vague assignments are always the most difficult for me.
- We also like people to understand us with clarity. How many of you have been misunderstood by another person? We oftentimes have to clarify ourselves so people aren’t offended at us.

### **Jesus offers us clarity.**

- In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is going to offer us some clarity.
- Jesus is going to clarify to us some of the laws of the Old Testament or the Old Law.
- What are two phrases that are used over and over again?
  - Six times we will hear Jesus say, “You have heard that it was said,” and six times, “But I say to you.”
- Two issues I want to address before we dive into our text:
  - Jesus loves the Law and fulfills the Law and does not want to abolish or do away with the Law. Jesus is confronting and correcting the teachings of the Pharisees.
    - The Pharisees would add onto the commands of God making it more difficult to follow God.
    - Jesus did not have a problem with the Law; he had a problem with the Pharisees’ interpretation of the Law. (We will talk more about this at the end)
  - Jesus is our interpreter.
    - We look to Jesus as our teacher.
    - I want to read the Bible like him and follow the commands of God like him.

### **Matthew 5:21-48**

- We will now jump in and look at Jesus clarifying six commands.
- We will spend more of our time on some issues more than others because we looked at the first clarification two weeks ago, and the last two we will look into in more depth in a couple of weeks.

**Anger (5:21-26)**

- As we looked at last week, the point Jesus is trying to make here is anger leads to murder. And when one is angry with another person, in God's eyes, it is like you murdered them.
- God wants more from us than simply not literally murdering a person. He wants us to be reconciled to each other.
- Before we even go and worship God we are to be reconciled to our brother.
- We reconcile to others because God was first reconciled himself to us. (*2 Corinthians 5*)

**Lust (5:27-30)**

- The point Jesus is trying to make here is that lusting is wrong. It does damage.
- Lusting is when one's thoughts and fantasies about others lingers.
  - I would not consider that if you look at someone and think they are beautiful is considered lust.
- You might think, "What's the harm of just imagining?"
- Two things I want to address that are harmful:
  - Pornography
    - "A new study by the Barna Group shows that 64 percent of Christian men and 15 percent of Christian women admitted to viewing pornography at least once a month, compared to 65 percent of men and 30 percent of women who identified as non-Christian and said they watched porn at the same rate."<sup>1</sup>
    - Pornography is an epidemic in today's society. It is very harmful to lives and marriages and relationships.
  - Catcalling/assaulting women
    - One in five women claim to have been sexually assaulted.<sup>2</sup>
- When you lust, you are making that person your personal object. They are no longer a person to you. They are objects for your enjoyment.

**Divorce (5:31-32)**

- I know that this doesn't affect you now, but most of you will get married and many of you have had parents who have been divorced (or at least have been touched by divorce).
- The point Jesus is making here is that marriage is meant to last.
- Jesus addresses this with the Pharisees.
  - *Mark 10:2-9*

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<sup>1</sup> Meredith Somers, "More than Half of Christians Men Admit to Watching Pornography," *The Washington Times*, August, 24, 2017, Accessed on October 11, 2017, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/aug/24/more-than-half-of-christian-men-admit-to-watchin-g-/>.

<sup>2</sup> Roni Caryn Rabin, "Nearly 1 in 5 Women in U.S. Survey Say They Have Been Sexually Assaulted," *The New York Times*, December 14, 2011, Accessed on October 11, 2017, <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/15/health/nearly-1-in-5-women-in-us-survey-report-sexual-assault.html>.

- Jesus says that divorce was given because of sin.
- In the beginning marriage was created to last.
- Marry someone that is committed to a lasting marriage and God. Be with someone who says divorce is not an option.
  - We will have a relationship series after we're finished with the Sermon on the Mount next semester.

### **Oaths (5:33-37)**

- Jesus wants you to have deep integrity.
- In the times of Jesus, people would swear by different things depending on how honest they want to be. If they didn't mean what they said too much they would swear by something very insignificant. When someone wanted to show their seriousness, they would swear by something important.
- Jesus simply wanted their honesty. He wants kingdom people to have great integrity.
- Be dependable.
  - Be a person people can count on.
  - Be the person that is there for others.
  - Do your share of the work in a group project.
  - Do your share of work at your job.
- Be honest. Tell the truth.
  - Don't be the type of person that others have to verify your "story" with someone else when you tell them something.
  - I've known people that had this type of reputation: "How do you know when they're lying? When they open their mouth."
- Low integrity is a way to blemish the name of Jesus in the world.
  - We say "street preachers" (they were at DSU on Monday) and say that those folks give Christianity a bad name.
  - People who wear the name of Christ and has low integrity also give Christianity a bad name.

### **Retaliation (5:38-42)**

- Jesus is against retaliation.
- When someone slaps us, we do not slap someone back.
- We are called to forgive others.
- We will look at this in more detail in a couple of weeks.

### **Love of Enemies (5:43-48)**

- We are called to love and pray for our enemies.
- Hating enemies is for the world.
- In the same way that Jesus loved, prayed for, and laid down his life for his enemies, we are called to do the same.
- Again, we will look at this in more detail in a couple of weeks.

### The heart of Jesus' interpretation

- I want you to see a couple of others places in Matthew where Jesus explicitly challenges the Pharisees' interpretation and implementation of the Law.
  - *Matthew 15:1-9*
- Jesus is after your **heart**. Jesus simply does not want you to go through the motions when it comes to obeying his commands. He wants to transform you from the inside out.