

Matthew 5:21-48 WEB

- (21) “You have heard that it was said to the ancient ones, ‘You shall not murder;’ and ‘Whoever shall murder shall be in danger of the judgment.’
- (22) But I tell you, that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whoever shall say to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council; and whoever shall say, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.
- (23) “If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you,
- (24) leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- (25) Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are with him in the way; lest perhaps the prosecutor deliver you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and you be cast into prison.
- (26) Most certainly I tell you, you shall by no means get out of there, until you have paid the last penny.
- (27) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery;’
- (28) but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.
- (29) If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.
- (30) If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna.
- (31) “It was also said, ‘Whoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorce,’
- (32) but I tell you that whoever puts away his wife, except for the cause of sexual immorality, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries her when she is put away commits adultery.
- (33) “Again you have heard that it was said to them of old time, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall perform to the Lord your vows,’
- (34) but I tell you, don’t swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God;
- (35) nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.
- (36) Neither shall you swear by your head, for you can’t make one hair white or black.
- (37) But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ Whatever is more than these is of the evil one.
- (38) “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’
- (39) But I tell you, don’t resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- (40) If anyone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also.
- (41) Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.
- (42) Give to him who asks you, and don’t turn away him who desires to borrow from you.
- (43) “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’
- (44) But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you,
- (45) that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.
- (46) For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same?
- (47) If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same?
- (48) Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Luke 6:27-36 WEB

- (27) “But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
- (28) bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.
- (29) To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer also the other; and from him who takes away your cloak, don’t withhold your coat also.
- (30) Give to everyone who asks you, and don’t ask him who takes away your goods to give them back again.
- (31) If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- (32) If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- (33) If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back as much.
- (34) But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.
- (35) Therefore be merciful, even as your Father is also merciful.

Sermon on the Mount / Sermon on the Plain (Section 2)

for February 24, 2008

This section continues from the previous section in both Matthew and Luke. In Matthew 5:21-48, several times the Lord Jesus states, "You have heard it said..., but I say to you." In some instances, He is adding more to what they had heard said. In others, it seems that He is saying something opposite, contradicting what they had heard. Notice this as you read them.

The verses in Luke 6:27-36 seem to be mixed parts of two of the sections in Matthew. Also note, there is a verse missing from Luke. Which one? It will show up later (that is something that happens when you go over a Gospel Harmony).

Jesus spoke all this to His disciples. What will you do with it all? The Psalmist said, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalms 119:11 WEB).

Mt 5:21-22 (Exodus 20:13)

What is equal to murder? Look up the words "raca" and "fool" in a dictionary.

The phrase "without a cause" in verse 22 is found in some manuscripts and not in others. Perhaps you think you are angry with a cause. Are you judging by God's standard? In the Bible (and often in the Proverbs), anger and sin are shown to go hand in hand. Read Genesis 4:1-8; Proverbs 14:17,29; Ecclesiastes 7:9; James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-27.

Gehenna: Gehenna is one word used for Hell. It comes from the Hebrew Gey-Hinnom, literally "valley of Hinnom." This word originated as the name for a place south of the old city of Jerusalem where the city's rubbish was burned. At one time, live babies were thrown crying into the fire under the arms of the idol, Moloch, to die there. This place was so despised by the people after the righteous King Josiah abolished this hideous practice that it was made into a garbage heap. Bodies of diseased animals and executed criminals were thrown there and burned (from WEB Glossary).

Mt 5:23-26

Read Matthew 18:15-17. In Matthew 18 your brother has sinned. In Matthew 5, it implies that you have sinned. In both portions, whom does Jesus say is responsible to work out the problem between the two? You or your brother?

How important is it to God that we work out our problems with others (rather than avoid the person or avoid working out the problem)? Also, worshipping God and loving your brother are very much related. Read 1 John 4:20; 2:9.

Mt 5:27-28 (Exodus 20:14)

Read 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 John 2:15-17.

The lust of the flesh is a topic often mentioned in the Bible. Perhaps that is because it is a temptation that is so common, and that we are so easily caught with and enslaved by. How we need the Savior.

Mt 5:29-30

Perhaps verses 29-30 seem a little extreme. I personally don't know anyone who has cut off their hand or removed an eye following this verse, and I hope you are not the first. Yet, do notice in 2 Timothy 2:22 that we are told to **flee** youthful lusts. That does not mean to causally walk around. Read Genesis 39:12; Romans 13:14.

This is the standard Jesus has set. Has your right eye or your right hand caused you to stumble? Do you see your condition and your need daily of a savior? Praise the Lord, there is a Savior.

Mt 5:31-32 (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

Read Matthew 19:3-9; Malachi 2:16. This is God's standard.

Mt 5:33-37

What is the principle here in this section?

Mt 5:38-48

The Bible does not actually say that we should hate our enemy. But the point here is love. What kind of love has God shown to you, and is still showing to you? And what kind of love would the Lord have you show toward others? If you think about this, perhaps you think this may put you in unfair situations. Remember Jesus. He loved us and died for our sins (not His own). That is an unfair situation. And yet He rose from the dead and will come again in glory. Read Romans 5:8-10; 1 Peter 2:20-24.

Lk 6:27-35, 36

In verses 32-34, what three things do sinners do and to whom? What more does Jesus tell us to do and to whom?

Compare this section (Lk 6:27-36) with Mt 5:38-48. What is similar? What is different?

Conclusion

Jesus shows to us the standard He has set. This is the standard. On the one hand, this should reveal to us our condition and lack, and our need of the Savior to daily save us. On the other hand, as you grow in the Christian life, these things should become more a part of your life.