

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Week 3 – Matthew 5:33-48

“Out of your Comfort Zone!”

Today’s lesson will take us into territory that we rarely consider: What does Jesus say about Divorce, Oath Taking, Retribution, and Loving our Neighbors. He is not cautious about what He says; rather Jesus clarifies the real intent of God’s laws and causes us to look at our own behavior. What we learn is likely to take us out of our comfort zones!

1. Matthew 5:31-32 and Matthew 19:3-9 – Jesus talks about Divorce

A. Mt. 19:3 – The Pharisees question: *“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”*

B. Mt. 19:4-6 – Jesus goes “behind the question” to the beginning.

1) What boundaries were set for marriage in the beginning?

2) Jesus gave us an *Ethic from Eternity*; God intended that the marriage union would be _____

C. Mt. 19:7-8 – From the Pharisees, Another question: *“Why did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”*

1) Deuteronomy 24:1-4 –

2) Pharisees’ interpretation:

D. Mt. 19:9 – Jesus goes behind the letter of the law to the Spirit of the Law –

“Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not that way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

Jesus says, It was not what God intended in the beginning, but

1) Because of the _____ of humans, divorce was permitted.

2) He narrows the _____ and _____ reason of the Pharisees.

3) If there is sexual immorality (marital unfaithfulness), _____ is _____.

4) In that case, _____ is permissible.

TO THINK ABOUT:

How does Jesus’ teaching contrast with the views people hold about divorce today?

What is Jesus purpose in his teaching?

How are we supposed to respond to such strong teaching?

2. Matthew 5:33-37 – The Matter of Oath Taking

Mt. 5:33: “You have heard that it was said to people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all..

- A. Not the taking of oaths in court, but the flippant use of _____ or an object to guarantee the _____ of what is spoken
- B. Matthew 23:16 - Oaths as used by the Scribes and Pharisees:
- C. Matt. 5:37 Jesus’ goal for his followers? _____
- D. How is this a Kingdom Ethic?

3. Matthew 5:38-42 – The Matter of Retribution and Retaliation

Mt. 5:38: “You have heard that it was said, “‘Eye for Eye’, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.”

- A. The Law of Moses -
 - 1) Deuteronomy 19:21
 - 2) Leviticus 24:19-20
- B. Matt, 23:4; Mk. 7:9 – Pharisees took on role of acting like _____.
- C. In verses 39-42, Jesus goes behind the law of Moses and teaches a *Kingdom Ethic*:
 - 1) He reverses the heavy _____ of the Pharisees and calls for his followers to show _____
- D. How do Jesus instructions overturn every *Natural Response* of mankind?

5. Matthew 5:43 – 48 - Love your enemy

Mt. 5:43: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

- A. The Law of Moses – Deuteronomy 6:4
Leviticus 19:18
- B. The Scribes and Pharisees – Who is my Neighbor?
- C. Jesus Teaching – (KJV) “Love your enemies; bless those who bless you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.” (Mt. 5:43)
- D. Jesus gives an Ethic from Heaven – a Kingdom Law. This calls for radical behavior.
How would behaving this way affect our world today?

Jesus ends this part of his Sermon with these words from Matthew 5:48: “‘Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is Perfect.” How do these words sum up everything he has said to us so far?