

Matthew 5:21-48 **Commandments of Jesus** (see also Luke 6:27-38)

### Murder

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

### Reconciliation with brother

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something 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.

### Settle with your adversary out of Court

25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

### Adultery Guilt

27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

### Offending members of body vs. Hell

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

### Divorce and Adultery

31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

### False oaths - Swearing

33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' 34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

### Eye for Eye – Tooth for Tooth – Justice vs. Kindness

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever

compels you to go one mile, go with him two. <sup>42</sup> Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

### Love your enemy

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

### Be Perfect

<sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The perfect work of the Law is to convict all of sin so God can provide the only acceptable path to the Kingdom of Heaven. [Romans 3:9-19, 5:12, 7:7-12, 11:30-32, Galatians 3:22]
- ✚ No one on his own initiative is able to make himself worthy of the Kingdom. We are all dependent on the Grace of Almighty God.
- ✚ God has said, "There are none who are righteous and sin not, no not one." [Romans 3:10-18, 23, Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3]
- ✚ Since no one can be made worthy of the Kingdom by his own works, God is able to remove all pride from the Kingdom, because no one can make it without the grace and mercy of God.
- ✚ Jesus had said of the Law, "Not one jot or tittle will pass from the Law until all is fulfilled." [Matthew 5:17-18]
- ✚ Now, to be sure that no one may think himself worthy, as in the case of the young ruler [Matthew 19:20, Luke 18:21], Jesus took the commandments of the Law and tightened them to the extent that no one is able to say he has kept them all.

#### Murder [Matthew 5:21-22]

- ✚ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. [Genesis 9:5-6, Exodus 20:13, 21:12-14, Leviticus 24:17, 21, Deuteronomy 5:17]
- ✚ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. [Deuteronomy 5:22]
  - ✦ The guilt of murder has been moved beyond the act of murder, to the heart, emotion, attitude, desire, and words. [Matthew 5:21-22]

#### Reconciliation with your brother before offering your gift to God

- ✚ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. [Matthew 5:23-24]
  - ✦ Your relationship with God in your gifts to Him, is impacted by your relationship with your brother.
  - ✦ Your brother may not accept your attempt at reconciliation, but you must at least put forth the effort and try to make it right with him.

#### Settle with your adversary out of Court

- ✚ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. [Matthew 5:25-26, Luke 12:57-59]
- ✧ Attempt to avoid going to court with your adversary, you may come out on the wrong end.
- ✧ Good advice.

### Adultery Guilt

- ✚ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [Matthew 5:27-28]
- ✧ Jesus again took the act of adultery, and extended it to the eyes, emotions, and heart, thereby making everyone guilty before God.

### Offending members of the body, vs. Hell

- ✚ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. [Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9]
- ✧ Hell is so terrible, that it would be better to be maimed if it would help us to escape the torments of Hell, where the soul can not die, and the fire can not be quenched. This is speaking of everlasting torment in flames. [Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9, Mark 9:42-48, Luke 16:19-31, Revelation 20:10]

### Divorce and Adultery [Matthew 5:31-32, 19:9, Mark 10:2-12, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3]

- ✚ "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' [Deuteronomy 24:1-4]
- ✚ "But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. [Matthew 5:32]
- ✧ Again Jesus tightened the law of Moses, to make it an issue of the heart, and make sure we are found guilty, and in need of God's Salvation.

### False oaths – Swearing [Matthew 5:33-37]

- ✚ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, [Exodus 20:16, Leviticus 19:12] but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' [Numbers 30:2, Deuteronomy 23:21-22]
- ✧ God has commanded us to take our oaths in His Name. [Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20]
- ✚ "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.
- ✚ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.
- ✧ Knowing our propensity to profanity, Jesus commands us to keep our language pure, and let our yes be yes, and our no be no.
  - ✧ When we add all the course, vulgar, profane, unholy words to our language and exclamations, we are allowing the evil one to have his part in influencing our speech.

### Eye for Eye – Tooth for Tooth – Justice vs. Kindness [Matthew 5:38-42]

- ✚ You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' [Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:19-20, Deuteronomy 19:16-21]
- ✚ But I tell you not to resist an evil person.
- ✧ But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

- ✧ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.
- ✧ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.
- ✧ Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. [\[Matthew 5:39-42\]](#)
- ✚ Jesus takes the law that is just, and demonstrates that mercy triumphs over judgment. [\[James 2:13\]](#)
  - ✧ God said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt sacrifices." [\[Hosea 6:6\]](#)
  - ✧ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? [\[Micah 6:8\]](#)

### Love your enemy [\[Matthew 5:43-47, Luke 6:27\]](#)

- ✚ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- ✚ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
- ✚ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?
  - ✧ Jesus takes us a step beyond simple justice, to the point of love found in the heart of God.
  - ✧ Then He asks us to do the same in our relationship with our fellow man.

### Be Perfect

- ✚ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. [\[Matthew 5:48\]](#)
  - ✧ This is a Commandment of Jesus that takes us to the holiness God has wanted in our hearts and actions.
  - ✧ The ultimate command, to be perfect.
  - ✧ The word Perfect, means complete, whole, without blemish, flawless.
- ✚ This is also a quote of the law of the Old Testament.
  - ✧ God commanded it of Abram. [\[Genesis 17:1\]](#)
  - ✧ God commanded it of Israel. [\[Deuteronomy 18:13\]](#)