

The Sermon on the Mount (Part 2)
A Different kind of Righteousness (Mt 5:17-48)
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Introduction: We must give great diligence to see ourselves as God does.

- A. We can refuse to look inside our hearts and see what is really there. **(Mt 23:29-33)**
 - 1. How do we hear? Jesus often helped men see their own hearts.
 - 2. Are we like the disciples at the last supper? **(Mk 14:18-19)**
 - 3. Can we open our hearts to the word of God?
- B. We can develop a loyalty to a human sect and trim the word of God down to meet our lives.
 - 1. The heart of denominationalism is the desire to increase numbers by making God's word "comfortable" to the worldly.
 - 2. Those who call themselves "churches of Christ" are not immune to this temptation.
- C. An open heart that seeks the righteousness of God is the key for acceptable service to God.
 - 1. We should often find ourselves pricked and humbled by what we see in God's word. **(Lk 18:9-14)**
 - 2. Is your heart tender or hardened?

I. Righteousness and the Law of Moses (5:17-19)

- A. What would it have been like to hear Jesus teach?
 - 1. It was very different from the most respected teachers of the day. **(Mt 7:28-29)**
 - 2. Jesus needed all to know of His respect for the Law of Moses. **(Lk 24:25-27)**
- B. The transition from the Old Law to the New Law was to be challenging.
 - 1. It was foretold and witnessed by the Old Law itself. **(Heb 8:6-8)**
 - 2. His opposition to the Denominations of His day would be explained by His opponents as a rejection of the Law itself.
- C. Jesus kept the Law perfectly and held that standard before men.
 - 1. Jesus respected the "smallest" teaching of the Old Law.
 - 2. Those who under the banner of "grace" would say that men could be comfortable in disobedience would find no comfort from Jesus. **(Jas 2:10-12)**
- D. There was a time where the Old Law would be fulfilled! **(Col 2:14-17)**
 - 1. Sabbatarians say: "Jesus kept the Sabbath, do you?"
 - 2. "Till" is an adverb of time. Men could not fulfill this but Jesus did!
 - 3. Jesus is the author of the Old Law and never would seek to destroy it. **(Jn 8:57-58)**
 - 4. In both the Old and the New Law we see how God looks at the hearts of men.

II. Righteousness and Denominationalism (5:20)

- A. Why do human denominations exist?
 - 1. Often it begins with the best of intentions.
 - 2. Given time the next generations want to trade a faith the fights and stands with a faith that makes one comfortable.
- B. The love of God will always move us to stand and suffer without changing the standards of God. **(Jn 5:40-44)**

III. Righteousness and Sinful Anger (5:21-26)

- A. Jesus always first exposed the heart and showed men what was there.
 - 1. What does our "Facebook" posts say about our hearts?
 - 2. We often excuse what God despises. **(Gal 5:19-21; 1 Jn 3:15)**
- B. Sinful anger fights every purpose of God for our hearts. **(Eph 4:30-32)**

1. One brother told me once in bitterness: “I must love you but I do not have to like you!”
2. What do you think about one who has hurt you? What do you say about those who have hurt you?
3. Who is a spiritual man? Look at how he reacts to personal hurt.

IV. Righteousness and Marriage (5:27-32)

- A. Our relationships will reflect the righteousness of God in our lives.
 1. Just as in our day, Denominations will find “loopholes” for those they want a relationship with.
 2. We must be a people that fights the temptations of Satan. **(1 Cor 10:12-13)**
 3. “Grace” and “Legalism” are terms turned upside down to produce a rejection of the righteousness of God. **(2 Pt 2:19)**
- B. God made marriage as permanent!
 1. How can a righteous person make a marriage work? **(Mk 10:45: Eph 5:25)**
 2. What does a world person do when disagreements come within marriage?
 3. Do you want a marriage that will last? Marry one committed to God’s righteousness.

V. Righteousness and Honesty (5:33-37)

- A. It is hard to be honest! **(Eph 4:20-25)**
 1. Human sects will find ways of justifying themselves. **(Mt 23:16-22)**
 2. We live in a society that makes feelings “truth” and as a result dishonesty is praised.
- B. Do we excuse dishonesty?
 1. We can intentionally mislead another in many ways.
 2. Are we moral cowards that walk in the fear of men or do we have the love of God?

VI. Righteousness and Persecution (5:38-42)

- A. It is not hard to stand when your rights are trampled upon!
 1. What does one who trusts in God do? **(Rom 12:17-21)**
 2. This is a true test of our love for God. Do we trust Him?
- B. How can a Christian joyfully do this? **(Heb 10:32-34)**
 1. Our actions in response to aggression must always reflect the priorities of heaven.
 2. How many have learned the righteousness of God?

VII. Righteousness and the Love of God (5:43-48)

- A. How can I know what is really in my heart? Look at how you spend your time and who you associate with.
 1. The early church was pressured to associate with others on the basis of worldly values. **(Jas 2:1-4)**
 2. Let each of us look at our time with others. What does it say?
- B. Are we isolated judges looking down on the weaknesses of others or are we servants seeking to help our brethren without compromise?
 1. Consider how one church treated new converts.
 2. If you are often isolated and angry at sinners perhaps you should honestly look at yourself. **(Lk 18:9-14)**

Conclusion: What is in your heart?