

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus and the "Nice Club" Matthew 5:21-26

Today our world is embattled in the pursuit of "self-esteem".

- + But what is "self-esteem"?
- + Is it the engine or the caboose?

Your self-esteem is the emotional response to your own evaluation of your self-image which is your personal evaluation of yourself. Bible says the relationship to God determines both.
John 13:17; James 1:25

What is your desire?

Out of the heart flows WORSHIP of God or idols.

- + What are some of the ways people try to cover their sinfulness?
- + What's the state of your heart?
- + How do you react when things don't go your way?

Jesus Christ expounds the relationship of the Christian to the law. He elaborates on the fundamental principle: Our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees if we are indeed to be citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

- + The contrast isn't between the law given thru Moses and teaching of Jesus; it's between the FALSE interpretation of law of Moses and the TRUE presentation of the law given by our Lord Himself.

Two errors and a hit

"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.'" Matthew 5:21

- The Pharisees and scribes were always guilty of REDUCING the meaning and demand of the law.
- As long as one did not actually commit murder, all was well, and he could face the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" with the ATTITUDE "I have fulfilled the law."
- Jesus CONTRADICTS teaching of scribes and Pharisees.

1st Principle: The law must be "fulfilled"

WHAT MATTERS ISN'T MERELY LETTER OF THE LAW BUT THE SPIRIT
"But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...." Matthew 5:22a

- Anger in the heart towards any human being, especially to those of the household of faith, is according to our Lord, something that is as reprehensible in the sight of God as murder.

WE MUST NEVER EVEN BE GUILTY OF EXPRESSIONS OF CONTEMPT
"...and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council." Matthew 5:22b

- Jesus always includes evil thoughts with murders, and such things as strife, enmity, deceit and many other things which we do not regard as being such terrible foul sins.

BITTERNESS AND HATRED ARE IN THE HEART

"But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire." Matthew 5:22c

- God forbid we never produce a kind of self-righteousness by reducing the law of God to something we know we have already kept, or which we feel sure we are not likely to transgress.

2nd Principle: Relationships supercede worship

THE DANGER OF TRYING TO BALANCE EVIL WITH GOOD

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, & there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, & go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, & then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

- Luke 16:15
- Not only are we not to harbor murder and evil thoughts in our heart; but the commandment not to kill really means we should take POSITIVE steps to put ourselves right with our brother.
- 1 Timothy 2:8
- We must not only REPRESS these unkind and unworthy thoughts, we have to do more than that. We must actually take steps, must aim at a positive goal. We have to reach the stage in which there’s nothing wrong in spirit between our brother and ourselves.
- 1 Samuel 15:10-23
- Thinking the Lord has as great delight in burnt offering and sacrifices as in OBEYING his voice - *“leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift”* - only then is it of any value!

THE URGENCY IS BECAUSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

“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 be 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

- Do it at once, it’s URGENT! Why? Because this affects not only my relationship to my brother, but I must always think of myself before God.
- Ephesians 4:26b-27

Doing Deliberate Discipleship What then are we to do?

1. Come to agreement with God quickly.

- Thank God His terms are: “His yoke is light, His burden easy.”
- I face and acknowledge this sin and confess it utterly and absolutely (Psalm 51:3, 1 John 1:5-2:2).
- Stop any self-defense or self-justification (1 John 1:8 & 10).
- I must humble myself (1 Peter 5:5b).

2. Then God will settle with you.

- Indeed, I will forgive it all because, though you are a guilty and foul bankrupt sinner before Me, and the bill you owe Me is one you can never pay, I have sent My Son into your world and He has paid your debt for you.

These are God’s terms: utter, absolute confession. Do not delay! Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way.

For completed notes of today’s sermon, visit the FFC website – www.faithfellowship.us. Thanks.