

- I. The Lord requires real righteousness Matt 5:48
- A. Only God can make a person righteous - in his / her heart
 Matt 5:3-6;
 Rom 3:21-26;
 Ezek 36:26
- B. A righteous heart leads to righteous living
 Rom 8:21;
 Gal 5:1;
 Titus 2:11-12;
 II Tim 2:19
- II. A righteous heart does not murder
- A. Murder starts in our hearts
 I John 3:15;
 I Sam 11:6;
 I Sam 20:24;
 Mark 3:5;
 Titus 1:17;
 Eph 4:26, 31-32
 Rom 12:17-19;
 James 1:19-20; 4:1-12
- B. A heart not right with others is not right with God
 Matt 6:14-15
- III. Be disposed to settle quickly
- A. A righteous heart does not tolerate even seeds of evil
 James 1:15;
 Rom 12:18;
 I Pet 4:8
- B. Settle before consequences come

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'
²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Care Group Questions

“But I Tell You #1”
Text: Matt 5:17-26

Dave Bechtel

November 18, 2007

1. Did you get to see the second video of the “family odyssey” series on Sunday? If so, what did you feel as the family was disintegrating? Did you personally identify with the situation or any of the characters? Does any of it relate to experiences you have had?
2. In our verses, Jesus refers to the other “teachers” of His listeners, and “you have heard it said”. Do you know anything about these other teachers, what they taught and how they lived among the Israelites of Jesus’ day?
3. When Jesus tells His hearers that they must be even more righteous than those who teach them, what did He mean? How is that possible?
4. In the teaching the listeners had previously heard, they were told that they shouldn’t murder for what reason (see verse 21)? How is Jesus teaching at another level than this? Why wouldn’t one of His kingdom disciples murder someone?
5. Is anger always a sin? If not, can you give some insight as to when anger is good and when it is not? Can you give an illustration of either kind from your recent experience?
6. Jesus says that if we remember that things are not right between us and another person, we should immediately leave our offering at the altar, get it reconciled, then come back and finish offering our gift. What insight does this give into God’s values? How are they different than some might think?
7. Can you develop a partial “theology of interruptions”? When would it be God-honoring to interrupt our business with Him for something else? When would it be better not to let something interrupt our time with Him?
8. In verse 25, Jesus tells us to have a heart disposition of settling trouble quickly. For what reasons, that you can list, is that good counsel (one of the reasons is in the next verse). Do you generally have a heart that is eager to settle things with others?
9. Is there anyone with whom you need to “settle things” in your life right now?

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