

Kingdom Community

Gospel of Matthew, Part 25

Matthew 5:20–26

Sermon Outline

*The Law is a not a way TO life,
but a way OF life IN Christ.*

I. A Universal Need for Repentance (5:21-22)

The Law drives us to the Gospel

- A. The Reduced Meaning of the Law
- B. The Real Meaning of the Law
 - 1. Murderous acts make us guilty before God.
 - 2. Angry thoughts make us guilty before God.
 - 3. Insulting words make us guilty before God.
- C. The Reality revealed by the Law

*The Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ,
so that we may be justified by faith. –Galatians 3:24*

II. An Urgent Need for Reconciliation (5:23-26)

The Gospel drives us to One Another

- A. Scenario #1: On the way to church.
- B. Scenario #2: On the way to court.

*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” –Galatians 5:14*

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. The Law is not a way TO life, but a way OF life IN Christ. What does this statement mean? Do you get it? Why is it important? How does it relate to the Pharisees and us? What is our relationship to the law before we trust Christ vs. our relationship to the law after we trust Christ?
2. How did the Pharisees reduce and shrink God’s Law? Why? What is the real meaning of the command, “Do not murder?” Is it just a negative command? How does Jesus teach us that this is really a command to love?
3. How does Jesus show us our guilt before God? Why is talk of guilt and judgment so unpalatable to our modern and postmodern ears? How does contemporary Christianity show the love of God, but neglect the holiness of God? How does the cross/gospel show both the holiness of God and the love of God?
4. How does the law drive us to the Gospel? Why must we receive and trust the gospel of Jesus before we can do what Jesus commands us in 5:22-26? How are Jesus’ commands in these verses so countercultural and unnatural?
5. How does the Gospel give us the power to reconcile with brothers and opponents? How does the cross/gospel show us what this looks like?
6. How does Jesus show the urgency of reconciliation? The priority of reconciliation? The value of reconciliation?
7. Is there someone you need to live out the gospel with by seeking reconciliation?