



## *Sermons of the Savior*

**Matthew 5:21-48**

**Lesson 5**

Prior to this portion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared that He did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but that they might be fulfilled (Matthew 5:17). He followed that proclamation with a series of statements quoting from the Old Testament Law; making statements like *You have heard it said*. Then, with great authority, Jesus said, *but I say*, and presented the Law as the people had never heard it before.

### **OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 5:21-48**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Underline or highlight phrases similar to *you have heard* and the quotation of the Law that followed the phrase. In another color, underline or highlight the phrase *but I say to (tell) you* and Jesus' interpretation of the Law that followed.
3. Make a list of each quotation of the Law as taught quoted from the Old Testament.  
Note: we have added the Old Testament references for your understanding.

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Quote</b>	<b>O.T. Reference</b>
21	<i>You shall not murder</i>	Exodus 20:13
27		Exodus 20:14
31		Deuteronomy 24:1
33		Deuteronomy 23:23
38		Exodus 21:24
43		Leviticus 19:18

- a. List the six topics covered in these verses

### CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. If you were given full governmental authority and resources, how would you go about reducing the amount of violent crime in this country?
2. What causes people to break commitments?
3. What is appealing about revenge?

### MURDER - Read Matthew 5:21-26

1. The people depended on the religious leaders to interpret the laws. The laws addressed in these verses were contained in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Law of Moses. The Pharisees taught that anyone who murdered was in *danger of judgment*. What did Jesus say in verse 22 that makes us all in *danger of judgment*?
2. In what ways are thoughts of *anger* similar to thoughts of *murder*?
3. The scenario in verses 23,24 refers to coming before the Lord to worship. If we realize a *brother has something against us*, what are we to do?
  - a. What should be our goal?
  - b. According to Matthew 18:15,16, what are you to do if *your brother sins against you*?
  - c. Why is it necessary to get things right with people before we worship God?
4. What instruction is given in Matthew 5:25,26 regarding an adversary who would take you before a judge who would declare you to be guilty?
  - a. Only pride and *anger* would prevent us from understanding the sheer logic of this. How do these two emotions get us into avoidable trouble?

## **ADULTERY – Read Matthew 5:27-30**

1. What did Jesus say in verse 28 that countered the earlier interpretation of the law regarding *adultery*?
  - a. Although *adulterous* thoughts are not grounds for divorce, Jesus wants us to see that *adulterous* actions stem from *adulterous* thinking. *Lustful* thoughts are sin to God. What part do you think the acceptance of *lustful thoughts* has had on the standards of our society?
2. What did Jesus suggest we do with a *sinning eye* or *hand*?
  - a. How does a *sinning eye* or a *sinning hand* relate to the warnings regarding *adultery*?
  - b. *Cutting out an eye* or *cutting off a hand* would be a drastic measure. What are some other measures a person might take to that would help to eliminate *lustful thoughts*?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and explain how to *bring thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ*.

## **DIVORCE – Read Matthew 31-32**

1. Finding a loophole for divorce has been a quest throughout time. Many Jews gladly accepted the provision of *giving the wife a divorce certificate*. This was never God's intention. What did Jesus say was the only grounds for *divorce*? Verse 32
2. The Pharisees asked the question: *Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife*? Read Jesus' response in Mark 10:2-9 and answer the following questions:

Why did Moses *permit a man to write a certificate of divorce*?

What was God's intention *from the beginning*?

*Therefore*, what was Jesus' conclusion?
3. Why do you think that, even Christians, dismiss what Jesus clearly stated?
4. What thoughts of the heart can begin to take a person down the road toward *divorce*?

5. How would understanding Jesus' statement about divorce as a command prevent even the consideration of *divorcing*?

### **OATHS - Read Matthew 5:33-37**

1. In ancient times, people often made *oaths* swearing by things or by people. *Oaths* were taken very seriously and were expected to be honored, no matter what the consequences might be. Today, we do not tend to make *oaths*. What are some things people do or say to make our statements appear stronger or more reliable?

Challenge: Search Scripture and record some of the *oaths* made.

2. Jesus gave examples of inappropriate *oaths*. Why is it inappropriate to *swear by*:  
*heaven*  
*the earth*  
*Jerusalem*  
*your head*
3. Although Jesus specifically mentioned these things, what was His overall command? Verse 34
4. Rather than *swear at all*, what was Jesus' instruction in verse 37?
  - a. How should we respond when people try to get us to make promises or extra assurances?
5. Why do you think the issue of making *oaths* was important for Jesus to correct?

### **REVENGE - Read Matthew 5:38-42**

1. *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*. Why do you think some people live with this philosophy?
  - a. What does it mean to *resist an evil person*?

2. Rather than revenge, Jesus gave examples of how to “answer” in different situations. What are you to do when:

*Someone slaps you on the cheek*

*Someone wants to sue you and take away your tunic (inner garment)*

*Someone compels you to go one mile*

*Someone wants something from you or wants to borrow something from you*

3. In what ways are these counter responses to revenge?
4. What is the attitude Jesus is looking for here?
  - a. Read Psalm 112:1-10 and list the benefits of *delighting in God's commandments* (as it relates to Jesus' exhortation to *not resist an evil person*).

### **LOVING YOUR ENEMIES – Read Matthew 5:43-48**

1. *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemies.* That's usually an easy one to follow. But, Jesus, taught us differently. According to verse 44, what are the four ways we should treat those who have caused us harm?
  - a. In *loving our enemies* in this way, who does it show we belong to?
2. How have you discovered that it is only because of your relationship with the Father, that you can *love your enemies* as Jesus taught?
  - a. What did Jesus call those who resembled *God* in Matthew 5:9?
    - 1.) How is *loving your enemies* being a *peacemaker*?
3. What does 1 Peter 3:9 teach us?

4. Why is Jesus not impressed when we *love* those who *love* us?
  
5. Write the final words of this chapter.
  - a. This command is not referring to the degree of perfection we are to achieve, but the kind of perfection, which distinguishes us from those who are not God's children. How did Jesus live His own teaching about *loving His enemies*?

**REVIEW: Read Matthew 5:21-48**

1. Share something you learned from this lesson about:

*Murder*

*Adultery*

*Divorce*

*Oaths*

*Revenge*

*Loving your enemies*

2. These statements of Jesus certainly reveal the fact that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). No one, even believers, is exempt from these sins of the heart. However, we are still called to pursue His holiness. How has this lesson challenged you to do that?

*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.  
And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us,  
an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.  
- Ephesians 5:1,2*

## Observation Worksheet

### Matthew 5:21-48

<sup>21</sup> "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.' <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. <sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> "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.' <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; <sup>35</sup> nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. <sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. <sup>40</sup> If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. <sup>41</sup> 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. <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? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.