

Morning Sermon April 19, 2020

“God’s Law, God’s Eyes ...” Matthew 5:21-30

In the verses we have before us today we have Jesus’ viewpoint of the sixth and seventh commandments. I believe Jesus is using these two commands as examples of how Christians might exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees as He said was needed in verse :20 –

²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)

Now, the scribes and the Pharisees were according to Jesus, those who would ... indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:27–28 (NKJV)

I. *The eyes of men are limited regarding what they might judge rightly –*

²¹ “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

1. *Murder was the first crime for which God made men accountable to other men –*

⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand *a reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. Genesis 9:5–6 (NKJV)

In Genesis 9:5-6 we have the institution of the death penalty for murder.

2. *Yet, murder, and other capital offenses had to be witnessed –*

⁶ Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Deuteronomy 17:6 (NKJV)

II. *God is able to see and judge more, a lot more –*

1. *Anger without a cause –*

²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... Matthew 5:22 A

A. *Anger may be outward to the point many see it / or stuffed away hidden in the heart, where only God’s sees ...*

B. *Anger sometimes is righteous, for a “cause” and this is tough for us to judge too...*

2. *Name calling –*

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. Matthew 5:21 B – 5:22

Name calling happens so frequently, our courtrooms and jails would prove inadequate to deal with the NUMBERS of guilty ...

3. *Lack of reconciliation –*

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. Matthew 5:23-26

A. *Point here is coming to the altar represents coming to God!*

B. *God knows who is truly right and who is truly wrong in every disagreement among men. We may deceive even ourselves in this regard....*

C. *But if our adversary is right, and we are caught guilty before God, we will pay for it!*

4. *Adultery in the heart -*

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28

- A. *It is tough to judge adultery period as men and women usually commit it is secret ...*
- B. *Yet, adultery in the heart is impossible for us to see...*
- C. *In fact, I believe it is quite possible for a single man to look admirably at a woman without lust –*

²² **He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD. Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV)**

D. Yet God is always able to see and judge sin -

²⁸ **But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28**

III. Because all things are laid open before the eyes of God Who is our Judge, we are called to extreme measures in dealing with sin –

²⁹ **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. ³⁰ 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. Matthew 5:29–30 (NKJV)**

³ **The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. Proverbs 15:3 (NKJV)**

- 1. *Jesus Christ has authority to call us to drastic measures in dealing with sin, because though sinless, He used drastic measures to save us –*

²¹ **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)**

⁵ **and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)**

- 2. *I am not saying Jesus is telling us to literally pluck our eyes out, or cut our hands off, but if He were, it would be a small price in order to avoid an eternity in Hell ---*

- 3. *What about if our favorite TV show, or television, or the internet or some hobby were causing us to sin, should we give it up? Yes, immediately!*

IV. Application:

- 1. *Examine yourself, ask God to help you –*

A. *There is something the preacher can do / tell you that God's judges secret / hidden / heart sins*

B. *There is something which neither the preacher or elders or friends at church can do... see secret / hidden / heart sins, therefore we need to / you need to -*

⁵ **Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified. 2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV)**

C. *We need help with our own sins –*

¹² **Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Psalm 19:12 (NKJV)**

- *Help to understand them, see them, know them for the evil they are ...*

- *Help to admit them, confess them and be cleansed from them—*

⁸ **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:8–10 (NKJV)**

2. *Root your sins out like weeds, Sow God's Word as Seed –*

¹² **Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)**

3. *Hunger and thirst for righteousness, with prayer –*

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)**

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