

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, May 2, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 31. You Shall Not Murder – Matthew 5:21-26

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Introduction: “Righteousness, the one word that sums up Christian living.” (MLJ) Righteousness is defined as “a state that is in accord with standards for acceptable and anticipated behavior, upright, to carry out a total obligation.” In Matthew 5:21-48, Jesus uses 6 illustrations that demonstrate common principles in the midst of particular commandments that prove that He did not come to give a new law, but new life! The contrast in these illustrations is not the Law given by Moses vs. the Law given by Christ. It is a contrast of the Pharisees’ false interpretation of the Law given by Moses and the true interpretation of the Law given by our Lord Himself. Jesus here is saying, “THIS is what I gave Moses.” The first contrast between the Pharisees’ false interpretation of the law involves the commandment, “You shall not murder.”

- I. The Law Narrowed – vs. 21
 - A. Murder – is it more than killing? – Exodus 20:13
 1. Take Life – to kill
 2. With legal authorization – to execute
 3. Without legal authorization – to murder
 4. What of intent? (If he doesn’t die are you not guilty?)
 - B. Danger of the Judgment – Num. 35:29-30
 1. Tried before the Local Court
 2. No mention of God’s prescribed penalty
 - C. Adding to the Law by Reducing It
 1. Do not kill someone in a manner that requires being tried by the courts and you’ve kept this law
 2. What does the Word say? – Numbers 35:16-21, 30-31; Matt. 22:7; Gal. 5:21
 - D. In This Sense, Paul Kept the Law – Phil. 3:4-6; Acts 26:9-11
- II. The Law Applied – vs. 22
 - A. But I Say to You – Christ Interprets the Law – CHS Quote #1
 - B. The Commandment in Letter and Spirit
 1. Murder (action) – unlawful taking of life
 2. Unjustified Anger (feelings) – the intention to kill – Rom. 1:28-32; Mark 7:21; Matt. 15:19; Col. 3:8-9; Eph. 4:31
 - a. Hate – 1 John 3:15
 - b. Bitterness and Holding Grudges
 - c. Justified Anger? – The Imprecatory Psalms – MLJ Quote #2
 - d. Be Angry and do not sin – Eph. 4:26
 3. Character Assassination (words) – James 4:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-11
 - a. Raca – worthless, an expression of contempt based on feelings of scorn and derision
 - 1) Murder his reputation
 - 2) Shake someone else’s confidence in him by whispering criticisms or by fault finding
 - b. You Fool – moros – no morals, less than human, to abuse his personhood and vilify him
 - 1) Bitter, condescending hatred
 - 2) Toward a brother no less, not even an enemy – Rom. 14:4
 4. Avoid people who feel, talk, and act like this – 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Cor. 5:11; Titus 3:1-3
 - C. But Jesus Called People Fools

1. Yes, as God, He pronounced judgment upon the Pharisees and those who in their self-righteousness rejected Him and the gospel, trying to justify themselves before God by their “obedience”
 2. Jesus was not slandering, but announcing the truth about their character – Luke 16:15
- III. The Law Obeyed – vs. 23-24
- A. Negative and Positive
 1. Do not think, feel, speak, or act in the manner of murderous intentions
 2. Do take positive, proactive steps to put ourselves right with our brothers
 - B. Obedience
 1. I have not murdered
 2. I have not been angry without a cause
 3. I have not said things about others that I should not say
 4. But – have you taken steps to remove the things that would cause you to think wrongly about your brother?
 - a. Offering a gift doesn’t cover sin
 - b. Sin invalidates worship – MLJ Quote #3 – Psa. 66:18
 - c. Obedience rather than Sacrifice – 1 Sam. 15:22
- IV. The Law’s Expectation – vs. 25-26
- A. Agree Quickly
 1. As soon as you are aware of sin, make it right
 2. Do not fall into the trap of self-defense or self-justification
 3. Do not depend upon what others will say or do – you are responsible for you! – James. 4:17
 - B. Application
 1. Admit it when you get angry – do not cover it up or seek to justify it
 2. Do not blame others – if you sin, you are not the victim
 3. Be reconciled, immediately – Eph. 4:26; Heb. 12:14-15
- V. Victory Comes as We Walk in the Spirit by Grace – Gal. 5:16

Cross References

Exodus 20:13

13 “You shall not murder.

Numbers 35:16-21

16 ‘But if he strikes him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 17 And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 18 Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 19 The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. 20 If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies, 21 or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

Numbers 35:29-31

29 'And these things shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 30 Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not sufficient testimony against a person for the death penalty. 31 Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.

Matthew 22:7

7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Galatians 5:21

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Philippians 3:4-6

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Acts 26:9-11

9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Romans 1:28-32

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Mark 7:21

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Matthew 15:19

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Colossians 3:8-9

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

Ephesians 4:31

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

1 John 3:15

15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Ephesians 4:26

26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

James 4:11

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 14:4

4 Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

1 Corinthians 5:11

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

Titus 3:1-3

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Luke 16:15

15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Psalms 66:18

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

1 Samuel 15:22

22 So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

James 4:17

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Ephesians 4:26

26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Hebrews 12:14-15

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Galatians 5:16

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.