

The Sermon on the Mount
Kingdom Citizens and the True Nature of Murder; Matthew 5:21-26

Gym to swim I will usually see mostly fitness people. Guys with muscles and stuff. But there are some that are clearly not in the best shape and when I see them I don't think "what are you doing here?!" Instead I think, "that takes some courage to come to a place where your weaknesses are exposed as dramatically as this."

Kingdom Citizens and the Commandments of the King, Matthew 5:19-20

Matthew 5:19-20 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you..."

Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you..."

Matthew 5:31 "It was said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce' but I say to you..."

Matthew 5:33-34 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.' But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God."

Matthew 5:38-39 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

One of the reasons for the credibility of the person of Jesus is his analysis of the human condition.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You

good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Direct quote from the LXX

This eliminates the claim of law keeping based purely on the physical realm

God looks on the heart for good and for evil

Matthew 6:3-4 But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Notice the literary device that Jesus used, "court...supreme court...hell"

Not three different events or three different courts but a literary device of growing significance to emphasize the seriousness of the matter

Murder of the heart and mind does not escape the attention of God or the consequences of God's judgment

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Common scenario of the day, scenario 1

Matthew 5:25-26 Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.

Common scenario of the day, scenario 2

Matthew 5:25-26 Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.