

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
SoM, Part 13: Greater Righteousness, Part 1

Last time...the Crux, the hub, of the SoM...Ch 5:20

- summarizes Ch 5:3-19
- introduces Ch 5:21 – 7:14...the Greater Righteousness
 - Ch 5:21-48...Table 2, horizontal relationships
 - Ch 6:1-18...Table 1, vertical relationship

This time...Greater Righteousness (the heart of God) than that of external religion that is required to enter into the Kingdom of heaven

- The King's Righteousness
- Spirit of the Law vs Letter of the Law
- 1st Topic: Murder (Ch 5:21-26)

v21-22 Ye have heard...by them of old time:

Ye

The plural “you”

Jesus is speaking to everyone in attendance “listening” to His words...
on that day in that place AND in this day in this place

Those who receive His words are disciples/followers, citizens of
His Kingdom

have heard said by them of old time

them: the teachers of Israel since Mount Sinai

Then, Moses told the people what God had said

Later, rabbis interpreted the Law, saying what the Law said

Now, the “learned”/scribes/rabbis taught the people

The scribes taught a text of the Law AND the commentary/interpretation
of the rabbis of it, primarily the rabbinic tradition regarding it
Rabbis quoting rabbis who quoted rabbis who quoted rabbis....

Man's interpretation of the Word of God vs purely the Word of God;
what man said about what God said, not just what God said...
making man the final authority vs the Word of God

Thou shalt not kill

Written by the finger of God in the tables of stone on Mount Sinai
(Ex 20:13)

Commandment #6...2nd on Table 2

kill = murder...evil motive of the heart carried out in action

shall be in danger of the judgment

in danger: tried and found guilty, to be liable for the penalty

the penalty: the judgment/condemnation/damnation of the offended God,
the Lawgiver

Gen 9:5-6 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the
hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man;
at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of
man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood
be shed: for in the image of God made He man.

Num 35:16-21, 30-33

Revenger of blood...the Giver of Life, "I" of Gen 9:5-6
Death of the "taker of life" is the only option
There is no satisfaction of the requirement of the Law
apart from the death of the "taker of life"

But I say unto you

Spoken by the Lord...

Who spoke thru His prophets who said "Thus saith the Lord",

Who is the Revenger of blood and the Giver of Life

Who is Rom 10:4

Jesus Christ the Lord is teaching a Greater Righteousness...Personally

angry with his brother without a cause

angry = enraged, provoked to wrath/fury/violent anger

brother = who?

From man's perspective: sibling or part of the same family

But who does Jesus mean when He says, "brother"?

Let's search the Scriptures

Lev 19:17a Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart

Ezk 18:30-32 repent, make you a new heart and new spirit
no pleasure death of wicked, repent and live

John 3:16

Matt 5:43-48

Luke 9:52-56 know not what manner of spirit ye are of

Luke 19:10 seek and save the lost

Acts 17:22-31

From Jesus' perspective (the Father's in heaven): any and every
person, descendent of Adam...mankind

the context of "brother" in Gen 9:5-6 (from the beginning)
Parable of Good Samaritan regarding "neighbor"

without a cause

Disdaining someone else and wanting harm or ill will to come upon them..

not apathy, the antithesis of Love

For no “justifiable” reason, not because of something he did or said but just because

- “you do”
- the rage/wrath/violence/hatred is an attitude or emotion (the flesh) in the heart (of flesh)

Not a righteous anger ala Jesus cleansing the Temple of sinners

James 1:20

Thereby misrepresenting God, which the Lord takes very seriously

What is racism?

What is any form of prejudice?

What is abortion?

What is the true face of Islam?

in danger of the judgment

the very same as in v21...killing and unrighteous anger are no different

in danger: tried and found guilty, to be liable for the penalty

the penalty: the judgment/condemnation/damnation of the offended God, the Lawgiver

Gen 9:5-6...as it has been from the beginning

and whosoever shall say to his brother Raca

whosoever shall...makes the choice

NEVER underestimate the power of choice/sovereignty

Raca = worthless, empty...expression of utter contempt and indignation,

feeling toward someone you feel is worthy to be spit upon, mocked
“blonde jokes”, “airhead”

shall be in danger of the council

the tribunal, the council of governors for slander

- city/tribal elders in ancient times
 - the Sanhedrin at the time Jesus was teaching
 - the Romans for capital punishment at the time of this teaching
- John 18:31 it is not lawful for us to put any man to death
- Rom 13:1-5

but

different than “say Raca...danger of the council”

not only in danger of the council of human governors but...

whosoever shall say, Thou fool

Name calling, slander of one “created in the image of God”

If God’s justice was immediate, USA would have no candidates
for POTUS, especially after this past week

fool = stupid, idiot, blockhead...”Shut up!”

accusation of being wicked, as “fool” is defined in Prov/Eccl...

56 of 73x in Bible (Scripture interprets Scripture)

Not just violent anger/rage/wrath without a cause in the heart but also the
condemning attitude of hate and damnation in the heart

A cursing, censoring, and slanderous (unloving) attitude manifested in
verbal condemnation that another is worthy of eternal damnation
i.e. is outside the grace and mercy of God

A form of judgment, which belongs only to God

Usurping in the heart of that which is God’s alone – judgment

1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know
that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him

Ps 34:12-13 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days,
that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy
lips from speaking guile.

With even our words, to sow like the devil/slanderer is to reap as the devil

in danger of hell fire

in danger: tried and found guilty, to be liable for the penalty

Matt 12:36-37 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall
speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of
judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by
thy words thou shalt be condemned

(idle = “useless”...anti 1 Cor 14:3)

Rom 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his
own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden
up: for God is able to make him stand.

the penalty: hell fire

Is hell real?

Yes, according to none other than Jesus Christ Himself

Matt 5:29-30

Matt 10:28

Matt 18:8-9

Matt 23:33

“Hell is NOT real” is one of the many deceptions in religions,
including Christianity

Jesus is teaching

- the Greater Righteousness by the Spirit of the Law vs Letter of the Law
- righteousness is not a legal but a relational construct
- a more revealing look at the heart of God and the heart of man
- a greater revelation of truth that fulfills the Law

Murder takes place in the heart before it is manifested with the hands
Murder starts with disdain, violent anger, an unholy wrath/rage

The hands and the tongue commit murder

The issue is not the external action but the internal condition of the heart

Sin is in the motive before it is realized by the action

Thoughts, motives, and words count...

the only antidote for such poison of the heart is the grace of God

Which of us have NEVER committed murder?!

I am a murderer!

Have mercy on me, Lord!

Such an anger is the catalyst for a hard heart

Eph 4:17-32

Heb 12:14-15 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no
man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man
fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness
springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Anger is the catalyst for a hard heart, a lethal problem...therefore

v23-24 Therefore:

Since

- God and His Word change not
 - murderers are liable for God's eternal damnation
 - murder starts in the heart with thoughts, motives, and words
 - we are all in danger of this judgment...guilty before God as murderers
- we must tend to unhealthy/broken relationships

First, a broken relationship with a brother

if thou bring thy gift:

No longer speaking in the plural "you" (ye), Jesus is speaking to us individually

Before you/I come to church and be all holy-like, we need to examine our heart

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;
prove (test) your own selves...against

- the Word of God
- the heart of God
- the mind of Christ

If our heart is not right...not in one accord with God's heart and mind...

because of a broken relationship with a brother...

who has a complaint with us or is holding a grudge against us...

make it right with our brother...

seek "in one accord" to replace the discord

Do as Jesus does – seek reconciliation vs vengeance

Humble yourself and ask for forgiveness...after all Matt 6:12

Put "on" Jesus...Micah 7:18, Gal 6:1-3, Eph 4:17-31 (v26)

Ps 15:1-3

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell
in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh
righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. *He that*
backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his
neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor.

2 Cor 12:19-20

we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying. For I
fear, lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would,
and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not:
lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings,
whisperings, swellings, tumults:

The acceptability of our gift to God...

Rom 12:1-2

depends on the condition of our heart, which He very clearly sees

Sacrifice is no substitute for reconciliation

Sacrifice must be preceded by reconciliation

Matt 9:13 go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy,
and not sacrifice

Matt 12:7 But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy,
and not sacrifice

Hosea 6:6

v25-26 Agree with thine adversary:

Second, a broken relationship with an adversary...
one with whom there is contention

Again speaking in the singular “you” vs the plural “you”

Rom 12:18...be a peacemaker

Don’t allow the dispute to fester (wait for it to just “go away...because it won’t)
and perhaps end up in court

Go settle the matter

What is a settled matter?

Paid-in-full

So...do as Jesus did (John 19:30), put on Jesus, and be reconciled...
be at peace by the power of the Prince of Peace

Unloving, hateful anger has no place in healthy (Christ-like) relationships

Granted, a healthy relationship requires 2 like-minded and willing volunteers

We can only do our part, for which we are accountable to the Lord

But at least, Rom 12:18

v21-26...murder, according to the Greater Righteousness of the Spirit of the Law

How many murderers am I looking at?

How many murderers are you looking at?

How many of us need to confess our sin, repent of our sin, and receive by grace thru faith the forgiveness and reconciliation of the offended God for even our thoughts, motives, and words?

PTL for the mercy and grace of God Who paid the penalty for all our repented murders!!!

Now...

Let us be made pure in heart (Matt 5:8) by the pure blood of the Lamb of God
to live poison-free, non-toxic lives

Having received the mercy of the God Who delights in mercy, let us be merciful

Having received the peace of the Prince of Peace, let us live in peace with each other

Let us attain unto the Greater Righteousness needed to enter into the Kingdom of heaven

1. Trust Jesus

- Faith in His righteousness (1 Cor 1:30) vs our own (Is 64:6)
- Agree with the Word of God, confess sin, repent, follow Jesus

2. Obey Jesus

- But I say unto you...regarding murder
- Be holy as He is holy
- Let us not kill each other with our words...
to our faces or behind our backs

Let us not cling to our own understanding...and be left out in the "cold" as a murder...
unjust and unholy still (Rev 22:11-15)

Let us be governed by the Word of God and the Spirit of God...
not by our attitudes and emotions (the flesh)

Let us forgive each other as we have been forgiven

Let us not be defiled by bitterness

Instead of a closing song, let us break into groups of no more than 4 and pray...
with and for each other

Let us leave here in one accord with the Lord God Almighty