



January 25, 2026
Series: Week 4
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"You Have Heard It Said...But I Say..." (Part 2) - Matthew 5:33-48

The Kingdom of Heaven

Context...

- God created a perfect kingdom. "Then God looked over all that He had made, and He saw that it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)
- Satan, Adam and Eve Redefined God's truth about Good and Evil, Right and Wrong (Genesis 3)
- Emmanuel..."God with us" -Jesus comes to be among us, bring redemption, and restore His Kingdom. (Matthew 1:23)
- The "Cosmic Battle" is raging. (Matthew 2-4)
- Jesus begins His public ministry and teaches one main message. "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matt. 4:17
- The Gospel in its simplest form is to turn **from** your sins and to turn **to** God.

Conclusion...

- The kingdom of the earth at this time was depraved and violent. (Roman Empire)
- The religious leaders during this time had added to the law and made it about actions more than about the heart.
- Jesus lays out six case studies, revealing the true heart behind the Old Testament teachings. Today, we will cover the second three...

Case Study #4... Teaching About Vows, Trust and Integrity (Matthew 5:33-37)

Context...

"You must carry out the vows you make to the Lord" (v. 33)

- Jesus confronts the audience's understanding about the law and teaches its true purpose.
- Jesus uses a law from Numbers 30:2 to illustrate how they have added to and manipulated the law.
- The religious leaders had made loopholes to this law by swearing on other things besides "the Lord".

Conclusion...

- Kingdom-kind-of-living does not exploit others by being clever or deceptive.
- Core relationships are built on trust.
- The main takeaway is that we should be people of integrity.

Consider... How are you doing with honesty and integrity? Are there areas that you compromise or minimize when it comes to telling the truth and being honest? How are you doing in your core relationships with this crucial component of trust?

Case Study #5... Teaching About Revenge and Costly Redemptive Generosity (Matthew 5:38-42)

Context...

"eye for an eye" (v. 38)

- This was known as the "law of retaliation".
- The purpose of this law was to limit retaliation to be equal to the act, so that it would not escalate.

Conclusion...

-Jesus takes this law to a whole new level. A transformed heart no longer has to retaliate at all. And Jesus explains how with three illustrations about:

1. Being insulted
2. Being taken advantage of
3. Being oppressed

Consider... Are you living out bold generosity? What is your reaction when someone insults you or tries to take from you... or demands that you do something for them...?? Is your first thought to retaliate or show generosity?

Case Study #6... Teaching About Loving Your Enemies Who are Imago Dei (Matt 5:42-48)

Context...

- Jesus is quoting Old Testament law that says to "love your neighbor".
- Hate your enemy is not in the law or the Bible. Another addition by the religious leaders.
- This passage teaches that God takes care of all of humanity.
- We are to be growing towards completeness.

Conclusion...

- We are to love our enemies... not hate them.
- God loves all of humanity. They are "Imago Dei" - God's image bearers.
- A truly transformed heart moves beyond the normal... "loving those who love us" and prays for and cares for their enemies.
- While it feels impossible to be perfect, Jesus died so that we can turn to Him and turn from our sin. In this process, God begins to transform our hearts and makes us more like Him.

Consider... Who would you consider to be your enemy — and how are you doing with them? Are you praying for them? Are you praying for those who spitefully use you? Are you asking God to help you to love that person as He loves them?

Today's topics are so difficult and should lead us to further study and to surrendered prayer.

In closing, **Consider** the following questions, and if you agree with the prayerful responses, declare them with faith:

Is perfection necessary in order to be in the kingdom of God? ***"Yes. Help me, Lord Jesus."***

Can we accomplish perfection on our own? ***"No. Help me, Lord Jesus."***

Did Jesus live the perfect life? ***"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"***

Does Jesus freely extend His perfection to us in exchange for our sinfulness? ***"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"***

Does God accept the perfection of Jesus as justifying the debt of our sin? ***"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"***

Does Jesus call those who have been justified to live out His perfect Kingdom practices? ***"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"***

Does the Holy Spirit help us to live out Jesus' Kingdom practices, being sanctified and matured in the process?

"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"

Will I see Jesus, face-to-face, in His forever Kingdom, where He will make all things New, Healed, and Perfect?

"Yes. Thank you, Lord Jesus!"

***Let's bring the "Kingdom of Heaven" kind-of-living into our daily lives,
and experience the joy and peace that flows through us into our world.***