

Matthew 5:33-48 – Kingdom Principles – Part 2

Scriptures:
Matthew 5:20 - 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.

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to

those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely,

G1964 – break an oath – “to swear falsely v. — to knowingly tell an untruth while swearing an oath; or perhaps to break an oath previously sworn.

but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’

G591 – cause to happen.

Kelly will sometimes ask if I want to do something that I don’t really want to do. Like going to a baby shower. I believe it is important that I be honest with her and so I will respond by saying, ‘No, I don’t want to go, but I will if it is important to you that I am there.’ On the other hand, if she were to ask me, ‘Will you go with me?’ My answer would be, “Yes.” She is not asking me what I want, she is letting me know what she wants, and because I love her, I will try to give her what she wants, even if I don’t want it.

Notes:
Kingdom Principles:
“1 – V17-19 – Obey God’s Commands.
“2 – V20 – Don’t trust in your righteousness.
“3 – V21-26 – Have a high regard for life.
“4 – V27-32 – Have a high regard for marriage.

Kingdom Principle #5 – Speak and act with integrity.

One of the sad realities of the world we live in that truth is not esteemed like it used to be. Today, every single thing we read or see must be evaluated by the question, ‘Is it true?’ And sadly, often the answer is no.

The principles we hold to be true in our lives are what determine much of our behavior. What we do that others can see is evidence of our principles. A man who is unfaithful to his wife does not have a high regard for marriage. A person who lies does not have a high regard for truth.

Earlier Jesus told us that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5:20). We know that by faith Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us. But that doesn’t mean we can live any way we want to. God wants our practical righteousness to align with Christ’s righteousness. The imputed righteousness of Christ gets us into heaven, our practical righteousness pleases God and is what helps the world to see God.

The Law of Moses allowed for making oaths, in God’s name. The people were then admonished to treat those oaths as binding even when it didn’t benefit them to do so. The problem was that, over time, they had added rules that made oaths less binding and including ways you could forego keeping a vow or oath. This encouraged lying when giving an oath. People could make an oath, saying they were telling the truth, while ‘having their fingers crossed’ so wasn’t really lying.

If we are honest and trustworthy there is no need to swear an oath. When a person of integrity says yes to something, they are expected to do what they say.

Don’t say you will pray about it if you aren’t going to sincerely pray about it. If you are not going to do something, say you aren’t going to do it.

Scriptures:

34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither

G3660 – swear an oath.

Notes:

The Law allowed for oaths and commanded those oaths be fulfilled. Unfortunately, rules and interpretations of God's instructions on oaths created a hierarchy of oaths that made some more binding than others.

One of the reasons for this is to avoid taking the Lord's name in vain ([Exo. 20:7](#)).

by heaven, for it is God's throne;

G3772 -

G2362 -

Scriptures:

Psalm 48:2-3 - Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.
3 God is in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.

35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor

G5286 -

Notes:

by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great

G3173 -

King.

G935 -

Scriptures:

³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because

Notes:

"Jesus taught that swearing is unnecessary, irreverent, and ineffective in that it does not really change anything. The critical issue is truthful speech." (Augsburger, 1982) Page 73

"Truthfulness is the expression of inner security and of integrity." (Augsburger, 1982) page 73

you cannot make one hair white or black.

Scriptures:

³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,'

Notes:

We shouldn't have to add, 'I promise' to the end of a statement. Say what you are going to do not do, then then be faithful to what you said. If you can't, repent and try again.

If I must take an oath or promise to do something, it begs the question, 'If I don't promise, does that mean I am lying.' Simply do what is right – be faithful to God and to your word.

'No.' For whatever is more than these is from

the evil one.

G4190 -

Scriptures:

38 “You have heard that it was said, *‘An eye*

Notes:

Kingdom Principle #6 – Respond to evil with good.

This is one of the oldest laws in the world. It was found recorded in the Code of Hammurabi which dates back to almost 2,300 years before Christ.

for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

An eye for an eye is intended to limit vengeance. Vengeance is found in the earliest pages of the Bible. Lamech (Gen. 4:24) claimed the right to 77 times vengeance on anyone who would harm him.

Scriptures:

Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

39 But I tell you not to resist

G436 - oppose, rebel, set one's self against.

Notes:

The Bible is the self-revelation of God to mankind. God did not reveal everything about Himself all at once. There is a progressive revelation as you study through the Scripture. The incarnate Jesus was the final and complete revelation of God.

an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your

G4190 -

An eye for an eye was the accepted rule for vengeance, but the Bible was not silent on God's desire for a better response (Lev. 19:18). Vengeance was not permitted between one Hebrew and another, Jesus is going to expand that thought to the whole world.

right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Scriptures:

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away

G2919 - make legal decision decide a legal question of right or wrong,

Word study

Notes:

We must be careful not to turn verses like this into rules. The principle to respond to evil with good. That might mean we suffer loss or injustice. We have responsibilities to God and those He has entrusted into our care. In all situations, we must trust in God and lean on the leading of the Holy Spirit to know what the good thing is He wants us to do.

your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.

Scriptures:

41 And whoever compels you to go one mile,

G29 -

Notes:

go with him two.

Scriptures:

Romans 12:17-21 - Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

42 Give to him who asks you, and from him

G154 - request;
some contexts,
demand.

Notes:

Jesus provides an entirely new ethic for relating to other people. An eye for an eye was meant to limit the retaliatory response of the Jews when they are harmed by others. Jesus is telling us to respond in a manner that is contrary to conventional logic.

who wants to borrow from you

G1155 -

What is most obvious in this ethic is its attempt to respond to the negative things in life in a positive manner. An eye for an eye allowed for some evil to be exercised in response to evil done but was limited to how much was done to you.

do not turn away.

G654 – refuse to
help.

Jesus is calling to a completely different response. Instead of responding with evil we are to respond with good. Paul echoed these commands (Rom. 12:17-21).

This is an unnatural response to evil. Growing up we believe that if my sister hits me I can hit her back. That didn't actually work in practice. She could get away with hitting me but I couldn't because boys are not supposed to hit girls.

"Jesus' advice is not a set of mechanical rules, but principles for meeting the personal wrongs that come to those who follow Him." (Hughes, 2001) page 140

Scriptures:

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall*

Notes:
Kingdom Principle #7 – Love everyone.

This is one of the better-known parts of the Sermon on the Mount.

love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

G25 –
“Agapeseis”

G3404 -

G2190 -

Scriptures:

44 But I say to you, *love* your enemies, *bless*

Notes:

G2127 – act kindly toward.

those who curse you, do good to those

G2672 - to curse (invoke harm) v. — to invoke divine harm or evil upon someone or something.

G2573 -

who hate you, and pray for those

G3404 -

G4336 -

who spitefully use you and persecute you,

G1908 - mistreat, implying speak maliciously against, threatening.

G1377 – “to persecute v. — to cause to suffer, whether physically or emotionally.

Scriptures:

45 that you may be sons of your Father in

Notes:

Jesus bases His call to love on the perfection of God's love to everyone, both the evil and the good.

Just in the same way that God expresses love to His children differently than He does to His enemies, we are to love others in accord with God's will and their needs.

heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil

and on the good, and sends rain on the just

and on the unjust.

Scriptures:

46 For if you love those who love you, what

Notes:

If we treat others the same way they treat us, we are no better than the unbelievers around us. Jesus is calling us to a higher standard – a higher level of perfection.

reward have you? Do not even the tax

G3408 -

collectors do the same?

Scriptures:

47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do

G782 -

Notes:

We are called to be salt and light.
We do that primarily through love
and the good works love motivates.

you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax

collectors do so?

Scriptures:

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your

G5046 – morally
perfect, genuine,
being true,
complete,
finished, mature
in one's behavior.

Notes:

We must not interpret this to be a
call to moralistic perfectionism. That
would drive us insane or to despair
because we are incapable of
achieving it. The word 'perfect' has
the sense of fulfillment or
completion. This is a call to abandon
ideas of our own ability to be perfect
and to yield our will as much as we
are able to the will of God.

[△]Father in heaven is ^{PF}perfect.

G5046 -

How do these principles relate to
Christians in the military or in law
enforcement?

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