

Matthew 5:33-48

- **REVIEW...**

- o The Sermon of the King...
 - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
 - Teaching those who want to LEARN - how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God!
- o Fulfill the Law...
 - Having giving the Beatitudes - EIGHT blessings - that present the Gospel Message...
 - The one thing Jesus had NOT mentioned – was the LAW of Moses...
 - He did not come to BREAK the LAW – He came to FULFILL it – because we could NOT...
 - In order to be GOOD – we have to keep every JOT and TITTLE of the LAW...
 - We must be MORE righteous than even the SCRIBES and PHARISEES [mic drop]
- o Redefining the Law...
 - To make sure EVERYONE knew it was IMPOSSIBLE to be GOOD...
 - Jesus went on to examine FIVE of the LAWS of Moses [said of OLD]
 - The LAW said do NOT murder – Jesus said to HATE without a cause it MURDER...
 - The LAW said to NOT commit adultery – Jesus said if we LOOK and LUST we are guilty...
 - But Jesus was NOT done – He had THREE more examples to give to His DISCIPLES!

- **3RD – KEEP YOUR PROMISE... vs. 33-37**

- o 1st – Do not Lie... vs. 33
 - Again you have heard that it was said to those of old.
 - You shall not swear falsely - but shall perform your oaths to the Lord!
 - THIRD - The LAW of Moses was very clear on PROMISES [swearing] made to God...
 - Any PROMISE that was made – had to be KEPT – or it was SIN!
 - **Deuteronomy 23:21** - “When you make a vow to the LORD your God - be prompt in doing whatever you promised him. For the LORD your God demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows. If you don not - you will be guilty of sin.” [NLT]
 - David made a PROMISE to Jonathan – the son of King Saul...
 - David was hiding – certain that Saul wanted him dead – but waited to get word from his friend...
 - As he hid in the trees and waited – Jonathan shot THREE arrows past David...
 - The code that warned David - indeed Saul intended to kill him...
 - Jonathan told David to go in PEACE – and they made a PROMISE to each other...
 - The Lord would watch over them – and their children – forever – **I Samuel 20:42**
 - A PROMISE David kept FORTY years later - when he took in Mephibosheth – **II Samuel 9**
 - It is easy to say we will keep our word – when we PROMISE something today...
 - But we are to keep our word – even FORTY years after we have made a PROMISE ...
 - God does not treat what we say lightly - He expects us to KEEP our word!
 - **Numbers 30:2** - “A man who makes a vow to the LORD or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do.”
- o 2nd – No Oaths... vs. 34-36
 - Do no swear... vs. 34
 - But I say to you - do not swear at all!
 - The LAW said to keep our PROMISES – but Jesus goes one step farther...
 - He says [ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω] - we should not make PROMISES [ὀμνύω] at all!
 - It is worth mentioning the words: PROMISE – OATH – VOW – SWEAR – carry the same idea...
 - They are what someone gives to CONVINCE others they are telling the TRUTH...
 - When a WITNESS stands in a court to give their TESTIMONY...

- They must first place their hand upon a Bible and take an OATH [tell the truth]!
- The only reason we have to PROMISE – is because we are untrustworthy...
- Instead of trying to convince others – it is better to be TRUE to our WORD...
- If we are faithful to what we SAY – no one will need an OATH to convince them!
- By Heaven... vs. 34
 - Neither by heaven - for it is Gods throne!
 - In an effort to give further weight to a PROMISE...
 - Men SWEAR by something great than they are - [I swear to God I am telling the truth]
 - Jesus gives FOUR examples of things men commonly SWORE by...
 - FIRST – HEAVEN [οὐρανός] – where the THRONE of God is...
 - But we should NOT swear by Heaven – because that assumes God will do what we SAY!
 - We are NOT the AUTHORITY – God is the one who sits on His THRONE in heaven...
 - And just because we say something should happen – does NOT mean God agrees!
- By Earth... vs. 35
 - Nor by the earth - for it is His footstool!
 - SECOND – the EARTH [γῆ] – which is UNDER His foot [footstool]
 - But we should NOT swear by the Earth – because that assumes we are in control!
 - We do NOT see tomorrow – we have NO idea what will happen next week...
 - To assume we have some POWER over the FUTURE is naïve at best...
 - Only God is SOVEREIGN – the earth is UNDER His control [foot]!
 - Ephesians 1:11 – “[Jesus] works all things according to the counsel of His will.”
- By Jerusalem... vs. 35
 - Nor by Jerusalem - for it is the city of the great King!
 - THIRD – JERUSALEM – which is the CITY of the great [μέγας] King...
 - But we should NOT swear by Jerusalem – because we are NOT the KING!
- By our head... vs. 36
 - Nor shall you swear by your head - because you cannot make one hair white or black!
 - FOURTH – our HEAD – which turns from BLACK to WHITE...
 - But should NOT swear by our HEAD – because we do NOT have power [δύναμις]!
 - Although we can DYE our hair color these days – it is temporary [comes back white]
 - We are all getting OLD [turning grey] – and we cannot turn back the TIME [get younger]
 - And if we do not have the POWER to do the least [permanently change hair color]
 - Why would we think SWEARING by any of these things gives POWER to our WORDS!
- o 3rd – Yes and No... vs. 37
 - [Instead] let your Yes be Yes - and your No - No.
 - For whatever is more than these is from the evil one!
 - Rather than make PROMISES – or SWEAR by something greater...
 - We should just DO what we SAY – either YES or NO...
 - Anything more than that – is from the EVIL [πονηρός] one...
 - Because we are being DECEPTIVE – and satan is the father of LIES – **John 8:44**
 - This is a challenging truth – because YES – does NOT mean YES in our culture...
 - If someone asks us to come over and eat – we will always say YES...
 - But that does not mean we are coming over – it is just a polite response!
 - We need to be careful and KEEP our WORD – be true to our YES and NO...
 - Because too often we speak - then we stop to think about what we said...
 - It is easy to say the WORDS – but the KEY is to follow up with ACTIONS...
 - If we are not sure if we can keep our PROMISE - better to say NOTHING!

- **Ecclesiastes 5:5** - "It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you do not follow through on." [NLT]
- **4TH - TRUE JUSTICE... vs. 38-42**
 - **1st - Eye for an Eye... vs. 38**
 - You have heard that it was said - An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!
 - **FOURTH** - the **LAW** of Moses – taught **EQUAL** justice – **Exodus 21:24**
 - An eye for an eye - a tooth for a tooth - a hand for a hand - a wound for a wound...
 - The idea being equal reprisal – you could only do to others what they did to you
 - It was **NOT** meant to be vindictive – it was meant to be **LIMITING**!
 - There was a lawsuit a number of years back regarding a cup of **HOT** coffee...
 - A person was driving through McDonalds – and they spilled the cup on their lap [their fault]
 - But the coffee was so hot it burnt them – they sued and won **MILLIONS**!
 - **When we are HARMED – we do NOT want JUSTICE – we want REVENGE...**
 - **If you take my eye – I want to take both of yours [and ears and nose]**
 - **If you start the fight – I am going to be the one to FINISH it...**
 - **Therefore - the LAW was given to LIMIT how much we could DEMAND from others!**
 - **2nd - Turn the cheek... vs. 39**
 - But I tell you not to resist an evil person.
 - But whoever slaps you on your right cheek - turn the other to him also!
 - The **LAW** called for **EQUAL** justice – but Jesus again goes one step farther...
 - He says [ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω] – if someone **SLAPS** us – we do **NOT SLAP** back...
 - Instead we **TURN** [imperative] and let them **SLAP** the other side!
 - This is **NOT** a **MORATORIUM** on self-defense – God is not saying we should let people beat us up...
 - But it is **NOT** normal to get **HIT** – and then offer the other **CHEEK**...
 - Paul – one of the greatest men in all of the Bible – got **SLAPPED** – and lashed out in **ANGER**!
 - **Acts 23:3** – "God will strike you - you whitewashed wall!"
 - **Turning the other CHEEK - is the OPPOSITE of our nature – the world EXPECTS us to FIGHT...**
 - **But why not be willing to be WRONGED – why not take the HIT...**
 - **Let unbelievers see a response that they would NEVER give...**
 - **Rather than reacting with JUSTICE – let them see GRACE – let them see Jesus!**
 - **John 19:3** – "Hail King of the Jews! And they struck [imperfect] Jesus with their hands."
 - **3rd - Extra mile... vs. 40-42**
 - Your Coat... vs. 40
 - If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic - let him have your cloak also!
 - To emphasize how we should **RESPOND** – Jesus gave **THREE** more examples...
 - **FIRST** - If a person **SUES** [κρίνω] us in **COURT** – and takes the **SHIRT** off our back...
 - Go ahead and **GIVE** [imperative] him our **COAT** also...
 - **GIVE** [ἀφίημι] – a word that is often translated as **FORGIVE**!
 - **Matthew 6:12** – "Forgive [ἀφίημι] us our sins - as we have forgiven those who sin against us."
 - **If someone TAKES something from us – that does not belong to them [theft]**
 - **Our INSTINCT is NOT to give them MORE – we want to get back what they TOOK [justice]**
 - **But why not FORGIVE – and show we are FORGIVING – by giving them GRACE!**
 - **Second Mile... vs. 41**
 - And whoever compels you to go one mile - go with him two!
 - **SECOND** - in the days of the **ROMAN** Empire – soldiers had to carry about **TEN** kilos of armor...
 - And they were allowed to **COMPEL** anyone to carry it for them for **ONE** mile [1.5 kilometers]

- Keep in mind – ROMANS were a conquering force – JEWS did NOT like them...
- But Jesus said – do NOT just go ONE mile – we are to go [imperative] TWO!
- No one likes to be inconvenienced – let people make DEMANDS of us...
- But why not go the EXTRA mile – that is something the WORLD would NEVER do!
- Borrowing... vs. 42
 - Give to him who asks you - and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away!
 - THIRD - there are TWO kinds of people in life: those who HELP and those who NEED help...
 - The ASKER [participle] - is the person who ALWAYS needs HELP...
 - The BORROWER [participle] – is the person who ALWAYS needs MONEY...
 - We are to GIVE [imperative] to both of them – and NOT [subjunctive] turn away!
 - Those who do NOT know Jesus will LOAN money to others - with interest...
 - They will let people BORROW - but they want their things BACK!
 - We are NOT called to LOAN money – or let others BORROW our things...
 - Jesus says give it away - without any hope of getting it back...
 - Give our things - to ANYONE who asks – because that the world NEVER would never do...
 - Besides – what do we have that God did not FREELY give to us!
 - Matthew 10:8 – “Freely you have received - freely give.”
- 5TH – LOVE YOUR ENEMIES... vs. 43-48
 - o 1st – Love your Neighbor... vs. 43
 - Old Testament...
 - You have heard that it was said - You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy!
 - FINALLY - LAW of Moses – taught we are to LOVE [ἀγαπάω] our Neighbor – **Leviticus 19:18**
 - That did leave an important question – WHO is our NEIGHBOR [רֵעַ]
 - JEWS interpreted NEIGHBOR to mean other JEWS – so they could HATE the GENTILES [גוֹיִם]
 - But that is NOT what the LAW said – and was NEVER what God intended!
 - Good Samaritan...
 - When a certain LAWYER asked Jesus how to get to heaven...
 - Jesus answered he must LOVE the Lord – and LOVE his neighbor...
 - The Lawyer questioned the LAW – looking for a LOOPHOLE!
 - **Luke 10:29** – “Wanting to justify himself – he said to Jesus - And who is my neighbor?”
 - According to Jewish tradition - not everyone was considered your neighbor...
 - Anyone who was not a Jew - was not your neighbor - including Samaritans...
 - To which Jesus replied by giving him the PARABLE of the GOOD SAMARITAN...
 - A man was robbed on the way to Jericho – and left for dead...
 - A PRIEST and a LEVITE came by – by did NOT stop to help him...
 - Finally a SAMARITAN [hated by Jews] saw the man – and took care of him!
 - **Luke 10:36** – “Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who [was robbed]?”
 - We also tend to look for LOOPHOLES in the Bible...
 - But the LAW was NEVER meant to be interpreted to mean we LOVE people we LIKE...
 - We are to LOVE anyone that we see along the ROAD of life...
 - The LAW calls us to be HELPFUL – and COMPASSIONATE to those in NEED!
 - o 2nd – New Testament Love... vs. 44
 - Who to Love...
 - But I say to you - love your enemies!
 - The LAW called for us to LOVE our NEIGHBOR – but Jesus again goes one step farther...
 - He says [ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω] – we must [imperative] LOVE [ἀγαπάω] our ENEMIES...
 - Adding EVERYONE to the list of those who MUST [imperative] LOVE!
 - What is Love...

- That being said – we need to DEFINE what LOVE is – it has a LOT of meanings!
 - We might say that we LOVE sushi – we also LOVE our spouse – and we LOVE God...
 - But hopefully our LOVE for food is not the same as our LOVE for the LORD!
 - We have ONE word in our language for LOVE - the Greek has FOUR:
 - [έρως]- sexual love - the only one of the FOUR kinds of love never mentioned in the Bible...
 - [στοργή] - family love - the love of a sibling - parent - or relative - **Romans 12:10**
 - [φιλέω]- brotherly love or friendship - used 25x in NT
 - [ἀγάπη] - perfect love - sacrificial love - used 117x in NT!
 - AGAPE is often [though not always] used to describe the LOVE of God - **I John 4:8**
 - There is an ENTIRE chapter of the Bible dedicated to defining it – **I Corinthians 13**
 - Usually people equate LOVE to actions – if we LOVE someone we do things for them...
 - But LOVE is not WHAT we do – LOVE is the MOTIVE for our actions...
 - We can be KIND to someone – because we WANT something from them – that is not LOVE...
 - We can be HARD on someone – because they are making a bad choice – that is LOVE...
 - Of all the WORDS in the Bible – there is NONE more important than AGAPE...
 - Because it what DEFINES us as believers – we LOVE everyone!
- o 3rd – How to Love... vs. 44
- Bless...
 - Bless those who curse you!
 - How do we show LOVE to our ENEMIES – Jesus gives us THREE ways:
 - FIRST – CURSE [καταράομαι] – people who want BAD things would happen to us...
 - We must [imperative] respond by asking God to continually [present] BLESS them!
 - Do Good...
 - Do good to those who hate you!
 - SECOND – HATE [μισέω] – people who DESPISE us – would NEVER help us...
 - We must [imperative] respond by continually [present] doing GOOD to them!
 - Pray...
 - Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you!
 - THIRD – SPITE [ἐπηρεάζω] – people who are continually INSULTING us...
 - And PERSECUTE [διώκω] – people who ATTACK us and want us to RUN away...
 - We must [imperative] respond – by continually [present] PRAYING for them!
 - In other words – we do the OPPOSITE of everything the world does to us...
 - Because the world does NOT have Jesus – they cannot LOVE others...
 - But because we have Jesus – we are able to even LOVE our ENEMIES!
- o 4th – What Love proves... vs. 45-47
- Father in Heaven... vs. 45
 - That you may be sons of your Father in heaven.
 - He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good. Sends rain on the just and on the unjust!
 - Why do we LOVE those who HATE us...
 - Because that is HOW [ὅπως] we PROVE we are the SONS of our FATHER in heaven!
 - God does NOT just LOVE those who LOVE Him – He LOVES everyone...
 - He lets the SUN rise on the EVIL and the GOOD – the RAIN on the JUST and UNJUST...
 - Jesus died on the CROSS for the whole world – ultimate act of LOVE – while we were SINNERS!
 - **Romans 5:8** – “God demonstrates His own love toward us - in that while we were still sinners - Christ died for us.”
 - God LOVES us unconditionally – no matter what we do ...
 - And only when we LOVE like Him – do we show the EVIDENCE we are a CHILD of God!
 - What Reward... vs. 46

- If you love those who love you - what reward have you?
- Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- The CONTRAST to the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of God – is the LOVE [ἀγάπη] of the WORLD...
- TAX collectors – were the most hated men in Israel...
- They were JEWS – who worked for the ROMAN empire...
- They would take TAXES from the people – plus EXTRA for their own gain...
- Yet even these SELFISH traitors – could LOVE those who LOVED them!
- People who do NOT know Jesus – might LOVE others – but it is CONDITIONAL...
- They LOVE those who LOVE them back – but will stop LOVING those who hurt them...
- Those who LOVE conditionally - show they do NOT belong to God!
- **I John 4:8** – “He who does not love [everyone] does not know God.”
- What More... vs. 47
 - Or if you greet your brethren only - what do you do more than others?
 - Do not even the tax collectors do so?
 - If we ONLY greet the people we KNOW [friends]
 - How are we acting any DIFFERENT than people who are NOT saved [tax collectors]!
 - Jesus – not the WORLD - is our EXAMPLE of how to LOVE [ἀγάπη] – **I John 4:8**
 - As Jesus has LOVED [ἀγαπάω] us – so we are to LOVE [ἀγαπάω] one another...
 - Think of how much Jesus LOVES [ἀγαπάω] us – how much He has done for us...
 - He never gets irritated with us - NEVER holds a grudge against us...
 - Jesus expects NOTHING from us - He simply desires to GIVE everything to us...
 - That is the LOVE [ἀγάπη] we are called to have for everyone else!
 - **John 13:34** – “A new commandment I give to you - that you love [ἀγαπάω] one another. As I have loved [ἀγαπάω] you - that you also [ἀγαπάω] love one another.”
- o 4th – Be perfect... vs. 48
 - The Standard...
 - Therefore you shall be perfect - just as your Father in heaven is perfect!
 - If we can do all of these things
 - FIRST - NEVER get upset at ANYONE – not a murderer...
 - SECOND – NEVER look and LUST – not an adulterer...
 - THIRD – NEVER break a PROMISE – just say yes and no...
 - FOURTH - NEVER seek JUSTICE – instead turn the other cheek...
 - FIFTH – ALWAYS have LOVE for everyone – even our enemies...
 - Then we will be PERFECT [future] – just as our Father in heaven is PERFECT [present]!
 - Impossible...
 - The problem is that we CANNOT – Jesus definition of these LAWS make them impossible...
 - And it only took FIVE laws to make the point – there are 608 more to go...
 - All of which is meant to bring us to the resounding conclusion – we are NOT good...
 - Which is His POINT – Jesus wants us to see our NEED for His HELP...
 - Because until we see the PROBLEM – we will never reach out for the SOLUTION...
 - The ONLY way to become a CITIZEN of the KINGDOM...
 - The ONLY way we get to go to HEAVEN – is through Jesus Christ!
 - **John 14:6** – “I am the way - the truth - and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”