

Your Righteousness, Outward Or Inward?

Matthew 5:20-30

Intro:

- A. **Jesus did not come to destroy the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them.**
 - 1. destroy = καταλω = "to disunite", "dismantle." V.17
 - 2. fulfill = πληρωω = "to perform fully"

 - B. **The disciple and the law.**
 - 1. It was in effect fully until Jesus fulfilled it. V.18
 - 2. They were to keep it. V.19a
 - 3. They were to teach others to keep it. V.19b

 - C. **However, the law would never produce any more than an outward righteousness. A righteousness which of the law and not of faith.**
 - 1. righteousness = δικαιοσυνη = "being and doing what is just and right", it is being and doing all that God wants and commends, it is a state called forth by God and proclaimed by God upon the believer.
 - 2. exceed = περισσευω = "to be over and above" "to overflow like a river over its banks."
 - 3. John 7:37-39, Romans 3:19-28
 - 4. no case = ου = "not", "an intensive negative + μη = lest, by no means".
 - 5. enter = εισερχομαι = "to go in", "to come in"

 - D. **The following comparisons are to show how they are to exceed the Pharisees in righteousness.**
 - 1. Jesus will state the law or an interpretation of the law by some ancient scholar.
 - 2. He will then give the hearts response to the same problem or issue, the good heart's response.
- I. The Disciple And The Act Of Killing.
- A. **"Thou shalt not kill (do murder)" v.21**
 - 1. Anyone who murdered would have to appear before a court of his brethren. This court

sat at the gate of each city or village. It had seven members.

2. If found guilty he would be stoned to death
3. Has nothing to do with self-defense or protecting one's family.

B. The disciple should not be angry without a cause.

1. angry = οργιζομαι = "to be provoked by or along with some act or thing and desire revenge with such a passion one is willing to kill."

V.22

2. These passions are progressive and each emotion or verbal abuse has its own consequence. They are: 1.) anger, 2.) raca = a term of contempt, to be empty, a vain, worthless person. To say such a thing can land one before the council, the Sanhedrin, 72 Judges, the High Priest was the president. 3.)
3. thou fool = μωρος = "dull", "stupid." To call someone this name is likely to get you body dumped in Gehenna, the valley of Hinnom.

C. The course a disciple should follow when faced with the anger of another person. V.23

1. rememberest = μνησκω = "to think much of a thing and so to remember."
2. ought = τι = "something"
3. against = κατα = "down from", "against"
4. reconciled = διαλασσομαι = "to change one's feeling toward another, so that he changes his" This is mutual concession after mutual hostility. **V.24**

II. The Disciple And Law-suits.

A. Settle on the way to court. V.25

1. agree = ευνοεω = "to be well affected or well minded towards another, to be friends with him."
2. adversary = αντιδικος = "an opponent in a lawsuit," "an enemy or an accuser"
3. There is a possibility that you might lose!

B. The consequences of an adverse decision. V.26

1. You would be cast into prison
2. You would have to pay every cent of the judgment.

III. The Disciple And Adultery.

A. **"Thou shalt not commit adultery:" v.27**

1. commit adultery = μοιχευω = "to commit adultery with."
2. You must not have intercourse with another man's wife."

B. **The disciple and exceeding righteousness.**

1. looketh = βλεπω = "to use the eyes", to observe accurately with desire.
2. lust = επιθυμια = a desire which attaches itself to or upon its object." An inward passion.
3. This act is to measure in every way the body of a woman and then imagine what it would be like to have sex with her.
4. The "law keepers" did not believe that this was wrong, only a pleasant pass-time.

C. **The seriousness of such actions.**

1. offend = σκανδαλιζω = "to cause to stumble"
vs.29-30
2. pluck = εξαιρω = "to tear out" (the eye)
3. cut = εκκοπτω = "to cut off" (the hand)
4. perish = απολλυμι = "to destroy"
5. hell = Gehenna

D. **An example.**

1. John 8:1-11
2. I assume that those who saw her in the very act wished in their hearts that they could do the same thing but the law restrained them. Jesus reminded them of this flaw in their character.