

Core 52: Chapter 19, “Deeper Morality”

Text: Matthew 5: 20, “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

I What? So What? Jesus gave six cases to look at a heart change... “You have heard...But I say...”

1. _____ is the heart issue for _____. “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder’...But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!” Matthew 5:21a, 22a

2. _____ is the heart issue for _____.
“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28

3. _____ is a heart issue and is _____ to individuals, families, and our society. “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.” Matthew 5:31-32

4. Our _____ should be _____. “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’ But I say, do not make any vows! ...Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.” Matthew 5:33, 34a, 37

5. _____ has no place in our hearts, rather we offer a _____ resistance. “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles.” Matthew 5:38-41

6. Our heart needs to go _____ in not just loving those who love us but loving our _____. 41 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” Matt. 5:43-44

II Now What? What will we do with the Truth?

1. Seek a _____ heart! A heart change brings a _____ change.

2. Spend _____ in the Word! Commit to an immersion (daily) in God’s Word and “_____ the way you _____.”

3. _____ to _____ in your thought life. Change whatever behavior that might be harming moral purity—Purity is not just avoiding sexual lust, but being “pure in focus” as well.

4. Determine to have a _____ where your _____ is _____. Begin by asking _____ for your failed word and committing to being _____.

5. _____ of _____, unforgiveness, or _____ and commit to demonstrating the love of Christ to those offenders...keeping healthy boundaries.

Matthew 5: 13-14, 17, 20-22a, 27-48.

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? . . .

14 “You are the light of the world. . . 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. . .

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.