

READ

Matthew 5:21-30

CONSIDER

In this next part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues to challenge His followers to love God and to love others by redefining and reframing the laws through the lens of what is at the heart of His ministry: reconciliation. This is how Jesus is the fulfillment of the law. A legalistic obedience is not the righteousness that He desires for us, but rather to have a renewed heart that is lived in response to His love, completely changing the way we see and relate to others. They are no longer objects of our wrath and anger; they are those in whom we make peace and settle with. They are no longer objects of our lust, nor used for our pleasure and gratification; they are deserving of dignity, respect, and honour as image bearers of the Most High.

There is a fundamental change in our minds and hearts when we shift away from considering how far we can go before we fall into sinning and towards pursuing and proclaiming God's reconciliation among us. The practices of confession open up ourselves to the Spirit's healing and transformation towards this redirection and form us into people of His Kingdom. Under His reign and movement to make all things right, there is no longer room for anger, wrath, or lust, only His love experienced in and through a sacrificial and covenantal community.

Looking forward to being together and diving into our passage this Sunday,

Pastor Jon Nip

PRAY

Seek and know our hearts, O Lord, and uproot every last trace of sin. We confess that we have been antagonistic and angry toward others, held grudges and resentment, and have cut down others with our words through cursing and gossip. We confess that our hearts have sought to possess and use others for our benefit, making them objects of our desire and gratification. Gracious and merciful God, we repent of these distortions and ways that lead to death. Would your Spirit turn us around and give us new heart that resembles your own, seeking reconciliation and restoration in the way we relate to one another. Would the ways of Jesus be our focus and what we practice and would righteousness flow out of transformed mind and spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DIVING DEEPER

Week 2

Before we dive in...

Matthew 5:21-26

(The Values of the Kingdom)

READ MATTHEW 22:36-40

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones says “the Sermon on the Mount is nothing but a great and grand and perfect elaboration of what our Lord called His ‘new commandment’ (i.e. the Great Commandment).”

- Read **Matt 5:17**. Then read **Matthew 22:36-40**. Note that Jesus has come not to get rid of the Law & Prophets (Old Testament) but to fulfill it. The Great Commandment to love God and love others (see **Matt 22:40**) is a summary of the Law & Prophets. As we journey through the SotM, keep in mind that Jesus is taking Old Testament teachings and going deeper with them (fulfilling them).
- **Read 21**. The phrase/idea “you have heard it said” is repeated six times (**v21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43**). This marks a section of Scripture where Jesus takes OT teachings or common Jewish idioms and pushes us to live it out in a deeper way. Jesus is concerned not just with our behaviour, but our heart as well.
- Where does the command to not murder come from? Is it still applicable today?
- **Read v21-22**. Describe the connection between murder and anger.
- **Read 23-24**. What is the connection between anger and reconciliation? How should this shape the way we approach others when we have wronged them?
- Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones notes the following, “The matter is so vital that you must even interrupt your prayer, you must, as it were, even keep God waiting. Go and put it right, He says; you cannot be right with God until you put yourself right with man.” What do you think about this approach?
- Where do you see anger in your life? Does it lead to sin? How does this passage challenge us to love God and love others? Share together and pray for one another.