

Matthew 5:33-6:4 Inside Out

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus begins with a radical Statement: **Righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees**

A) Righteousness given vs righteousness earned.

B) Problem with the Pharisees like so many other people – focused on the outward actions while neglecting the heart

1) Heart issues

C) Jesus reveals in the first part of this section of the sermon that heart attitude is just as important as the physical actions

Murder is not just an act of physical violence –

A) You can murder someone with your words – or with anger in your heart

B) Adultery is not just the Physical act –

1) It is allowing your heart to go where it shouldn't lust after someone – or getting emotionally involved

C) Divorce often happens because people make decisions in their hearts to NOT take their marriage vows seriously

D) Those are all HEART ISSUES

But as Jesus continues here in Chapter 5 – He is going to illustrate when the heart is right it will affect the actions

A) Our relationship with God is really an INSIDE OUT – PROCESS

B) JESUS working on the inside – affects our actions on the outside.

C) When the heart is right – things tend to fall into place!

D) So we ended last week with Jesus illustrating the need- Take marriage vows seriously –

1) Pick up - Take your word – and covenants seriously!

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.’ ³⁴ But I say to

you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

#1 The Practice of Oaths Dates back to OT

A) Where God provided for making oaths by His name

B) A clear description of an Oath is given in the book of Hebrews:

❖ “For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute”
Hebrews: (6:16).

Bb) The idea of swearing by SOMEONE greater than themselves – mainly God gave greater credibility to what was said!

C) But People would make an Oath swearing by God **only in matters of great importance.**

1) Abraham confirmed his promises to the king of Sodom (Gen. 14:22–24) and to Abimelech (21:23–24) with oaths in the name of God.

D) Even God made an Oath to Abraham –

1) He swore by Himself – none greater – He would fulfill His promise to Abraham.

So the Problem that Jesus had was not with taking Oaths in General but with The Perversion of Oaths

A) First of all the religious leaders in Israel had ok'd the taking of Oaths for **Frivolous reasons.**

B) No longer was it for special important things like marriage vows – any old thing – Take an Oath.

1) We do that today too: “**I swear to God.**” – Really?

C) I swear on a Stack of Bibles -

➤ **Or if I be lying I be dying -**

1) **Or I swear on my mamas grave (Didn't know your mom passed away.) She hasn't.....**

D)Or this one: **Cross my heart and hope to die – stick a needle in my eye! – WHAT ?**

Israel had their own phrases: If you swore by God the Creator it was Binding –

A)But if you swore by any part of creation: the heavens, the earth, the temple, your own head it was **less binding**

B)**These were their loop holes for being deceptive.**

1)Not swearing by God because I am accountable for that.

Bb)But I will **swear by the temple** – AND this guy is religious he will like that

C)**Swear by my own head** -(Their version of Cross my heart....in my eye)

D)It was almost like our version of Promising but keeping our fingers crossed.

E)It was **Evasive Swearing**- which in actuality – was the Taking of an oath became a way to lie.

C)**Jesus' point here:** We need to have integrity in our words- **IF YOU DO! -You WILL NOT need to Swear at all. OATHS ARE NOT NECESSARY**

1)Simply PUT - Let your **Yes be Yes and your No be No!**

D)Live as one who's word can be trusted!

People who had the reputation – He says he will be there – he will be there –

A)He says he will call – He will call. –

B)Shows they are people who can be trusted – people you can count on.

1)Jesus is saying: Be that kind of person – and you will have no need for Oaths

C)Back in the 1920-30's many Million dollar deals were made on a handshake

1)No more – People can't be trusted - **YOU BE DIFFERENT**

Now at this point: Jesus shifts gears a little bit #2 Revenge and Retaliation

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 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..

Interesting this is one of the most familiar parts of the Bible –

A)Often hear people using these phrases – **Eye for an eye tooth for tooth. Turn the other cheek – go the extra mile**

B)A lot of people have no idea – these sayings originated in the BIBLE

C)**Background on an Eye for an Eye....tooth for a tooth?**

1)The original law was a fair one; **"Lex Talionis", which means the Law of Exact Retribution.**

D)The retribution fit the offense – An eye for an eye

1)It kept people from going overboard –

E)Human nature is to go overboard – HOUSE toilet papered

1)Do it better

F)Shaving cream cars – gold fish in the pool

1)Christmas trees in the front yard?

Our natural reaction is always to GET MORE THAN EVEN – because human vengeance is never satisfied with just Justice.

A)It wants a pound of flesh for every ounce of offense- **RIGHT?**

B)Someone stole your chicken – **I am going to BURN DOWN HIS HOUSE.**

C)**No you deserved Chickens – Laws of retribution**

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 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..

Now it is important to note that the illustration that Jesus gives here has to do with Personal Dignity – not National protection.

A)Leaders of nations have an obligation to protect their people!

B)Jesus is not advocating here that we shouldn't defend ourselves in the event of a personal assault.

1)Someone breaks into your home. Ok to Protect

C)Someone is beating you up – Not expected to take it / **Pastors Son** –Dare you **DO THAT AGAIN**.

D)THE ISSUE HERE IS PERSONAL DIGNITY – the Language in the text makes this very clear.

Among Jews, a slap or other striking in the face was among the most demeaning and contemptuous of acts,

A)it was considered an attack on ones honor and was considered a **terrible indignity**.

B)**RIGHT CHEEK** – meant it was with the left hand
Or a back hand

C)It wasn't meant to hurt so much it was meant to **Humiliate**.

1)Did you see that? She just slapped him
Wonder what he did

If You wanted to hurt someone - give THEM A **RIGHT CROSS** – **Christian punch** –

A)THAT would hurt - Right Cross –

B)But If I slapped you with my left hand – **not hurt as much physically**

2)but in that culture – it was the ultimate in **Humiliation**.

Jesus is saying: Someone insults you – maligns you don't try to get back at them. – **Just take it- let God be your Judge!**

A)Jesus is advocating – let it go – turn the other cheek – Be the bigger man/woman

B)I will admit that is not always easy!

C)As someone who has had his character attacked a time or two – **comes with the territory**

1)People don't like a Decision our church makes {I get blamed- sometimes wasn't even involved}

C)Attack your character/ motives/

1)I have had times I felt – I don't need this – Quit

D)James 3:1 – **Let not many of you become teachers – stricter Judgment** – God Yes

1)Stricter Judgment from people too.

But what I have found is I have to let the Lord be my defense.

A)Learn – let it go – God knows my heart – motives – intentions – sleep at night

B)Don't react in the flesh – **don't get into a mudslinging match**.

1)Just take it on the chin – and don't get distracted by it.

C)So Jesus addresses our tendency to want to over react –

1)The next thing he deals with is our tendency to want to do the bear minimum

#3 Go the extra Mile!

V.40⁰ **If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.**

A)This is the hardest saying to find good commentary on in this whole sermon.

B)Many skipped over – but it is important to understand.

1)John MacArthur “If people found out that Christians believe this wrongly, they'd start suing us all over the place and take everything we have.”

We'd say, Take my house if you like and my car - Take anything." That isn't the idea;

A)He is not telling you, Christians may not resort to a court of law.

B)Paul admonished Christians to try and not take each other to court –

1)But never forbade going to court – neither did Jesus

C)He is not saying, Christians may have nothing to do with lawyers.

1)He is not saying, Christians shouldn't be lawyers and they shouldn't practice law, That is not His point.

His point is to detect an attitude in us, are we quick to demand our rights,

A)We are quick to press our interests despite the needs of others,

B)Question is are we willing to forebear and to forego our rights for the sake of the kingdom?

C)MacArthur adds: the idea is that there is apparently some justification for this person's suit.

1)He has a reason to sue you

Now people in that culture were poor – they didn't have much.

A)So often times in a suit – sue you for your tunic Undergarment – shirt off your back

B)Maybe a poor man would only have three or four of those, some people only had one.

1)The Tunic was like a long shirt - only it was full-length; they didn't wear trousers as men do today. Women and men wore a long undergarment.

C)They would wear a cloak over top of that

The Cloak had multi purpose: Coat - winter

A)Blanket at night to sleep on – cold – Jerusalem is a mile high in elevation

B)Exodus 22:26-27. The Jewish law allows for the tunic to be taken but not the outer garment the cloak,"

C)The cloak, could be given only as a pledge, as security, but it had to be returned by nightfall,"

1)Because it was the blanket they slept on, "And you have a right to security!

D)You couldn't strip a person naked and leave them to the elements."

So to the Jewish person listening to Jesus this would sound crazy!

A)Sues me for my tunic – give him my cloak also

B)Jesus is saying- don't be over the top in your revenge – be over the top in your kindness

1)Do whatever it takes to make amends

41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

A)It was written into Roman law that if a Roman soldier tapped you on the shoulder with his spear – you were obligated to carry his burden 1 mile.

B)But Notice Jesus – expands this: If ANYONE – not just a Roman – TALKING ANYONE – ask you to carry his burden.

1)Carry it TWO! – GO THE EXTRA MILE

C)Be people who go overboard in showing kindness to others – even those who do not deserve it

Jesus is admonishing us to live like Him – He turned the other cheek – when he was reviled He reviled not!

A)Jesus went the Extra Mile – Joyfully – For the Joy set before Him he endured the cross – despising the shame - Extra Mile

B)Continues

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father 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. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

"You have heard that it was said," "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy."

A)The first half of the command was a direct quotation from Lev. 19:18 but with parts left out.

B)The original states, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"

C)But the rabbis added a second half: "**you shall...hate your enemy.**"

D)Search the Old Testament and you will not find this command. It is just not there

1)Instead it was either inserted by the rabbis or construed by them due to passages inferring divine judgment.

E) But the typical rabbi did not want to be bound by such a narrow road of loving others.

1) So he reinterpreted the Scripture to fit his motives.

2) His "neighbor" was only his Israelite brother, and certainly not a Gentile.

Before we are too hard on them – we tend to do the same thing.

A) I know God's word says this..... but my situation is different.

B) \$20 for every time I have heard that – be a rich man!

C) My situation is different - NO IT ISN'T!

1) What God said still applies to you.

So the Religious leaders in Israel were good at reinterpreting the scriptures to fit their motives.

A) Remember when the scribe came to Jesus and asked what the greatest commandment was? -

B) Love God Love your neighbor.

1) The Scribe asked, well – who is my neighbor?

C) Because in his mind – Neighbor was his fellow Israelite brother

1) Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan.

D) Jews and the Samaritans hated each other – **Hatfields and the McCoys**

1) Point - **Your neighbor is anyone in need!**

E) But here Jesus takes it one step further – Love not just your neighbor but your **ENEMY AS WELL!**

Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

A) Sure I will pray for them- God kill them! Ruin them – Get them – I will pray alright

B) Not what he is suggesting:

1) Pray for God to work in their lives – Pray for God to bless them

C) I have discovered it is hard to hate people you are genuinely praying for.

1) Something happens in YOUR HEART –

D) Love them – something genuinely happens in their hearts as well!

I heard a story about two pastors in South America who got into a dispute.

A) The one accused the other of not being faithful to his church.

B) He just didn't like this other guy – the accused Pastor said: he started to hate me.

C) During one of the denominational conventions, I went up to him and I said, "Hello, how are you?"

1) And I gave him a hug. "Don't hug me," he growled.

"Well, I love you," I replied. "You can't love me," he said, "because I'm your enemy."

A) He was almost shouting.

B) The Pastor responded "Praise the Lord! I didn't know you were my enemy,

1) but now here's an opportunity for me to love my enemies."

C) And then he said, **"Thank you Jesus for my precious enemy."**

1) Year later I was preaching in his church

Jesus says: Anyone can love those who love you.

A) Tax collectors – or in our day Criminals do that!

B) But when you learn to love your enemies – it **V.45 makes you like your Father in Heaven**

C) God loved his enemies – sent his beloved Son

1) Make us His children.

This is the point that Jesus is making: When you are focused only on outward actions of religiosity

A) Your heart is going to betray you – eventually the hate in your heart is going to come out

B) You will say something – write something – email

1) Post something – Reveal your heart

C) But when you are focusing on the inside – Your heart – your heart being right

1) Allowing Your Father to work on your heart

D) The word Perfect in **V.48 is really mature –**

1) God is maturing your heart – it is going to be seen in your actions

E) It is an INSIDE OUT THING – not an outside in

1) Jesus wants to work on the inside – so it affects the OUTSIDE - THAT IS THE KEY!

Ch.6 # 4 Check your motives

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

A) Don't do your religious deeds to be seen by men

B) And then he illustrates it in three ways. When you give, when you pray and when you fast.

C) Three common and regular disciplines of Judaism and later of followers of Christ.

D) Note: Jesus doesn't say: If you do these things – but when –

1) The idea being this is normal Christian behavior.

Normal Christian Disciplines – Giving/Praying / Fasting

Don't be like the Hypocrites – Hypocrite – one who wears a mask – play actor

A) Pretends to be one thing – really is another

B) Don't be like them - Their whole focus is to be seen by people

C) When you do something nice for someone else – don't sound the trumpet –

1) Don't call the news crew

D) Don't post it all over social media

1) That is your reward

Do it in Secret: Don't let the right hand know what the left hand is doing – (Illustrate)

A) Father who sees in secret will reward you openly

B) Melodyland : Tonight seven people give \$1000 dollars

C) Carnal –

D) Tithe here – never going to get a thank you from me! – Don't know who gives

1) Sunshine - manipulation

Between you and God

A) Your father who sees in secret will reward you openly

B) Between you and Jesus

C) Heart is right – Right actions follow

1) Jesus is a giver – I want to be a giver too

D) Jesus is forgiving – I want to be forgiving

1) Jesus went extra mile – I want to do that too