



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of March 17, 2017

Matthew 5:21-48

Murder

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I tell you



WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What was the last book you read?
- What's your favorite type of foreign food?

Sermon Outline

- In our passage this week, Jesus takes six examples of the Law and teaches His Jewish audience what is required to fulfill God's righteousness.
- Jesus taught that God doesn't simply consider our external actions, He looks at our hearts – our motivation and attitudes.
- Jesus was continuing to point the Jews to their need for God grant them righteousness as they recognized that they couldn't be righteous in their own power.

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. How has God spoken to you this week?
2. How could you use this week's sermon to discuss salvation with your friends or co-workers?
3. In what ways did the Lord convict your heart with His teaching in this passage?

that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34 But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 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 swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

An Eye for an Eye

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

4. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being cold and 10 being hot, how warm would you say the affection of your heart is for God at this time in your life?
5. What might you be able to do to raise your spiritual temperature by even 1 degree?
6. Which of Jesus' teachings in this passage seem the most difficult for you? Easiest?
7. How would living as Jesus suggests impact those around you? Do you think they'd notice?
8. Who are some "enemies" that you need to love? How will you do so?
9. Why does Jesus command us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect?



Be sure to check out - www.forthecreek.com - and submit the four people you are investing in for the kingdom so we can join you in prayer.