

Sermon 2/12/23

Matthew 5: 21-37

Jesus Saves us from Ourselves Through his Teachings.

Matthew 5: 21

***“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,<sup>[a]</sup> and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’”***

“You have heard that it was said” Jesus knew the teachings of the Law, the Jewish religious leaders and so has the disciples as Jesus uses this opening for our lesson this morning. We are talking about both the Law and the Gospel this morning.

Jesus was the very one in ancient times that gave this in the Law that the Jewish leaders were teaching but they did not advance the requirements of the Law. He wanted to make clear to his disciples and all that would listen the advancement higher levels of his teachings.

Anger

Matthew 5: 22

***“ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother<sup>[a]</sup> will be liable to judgment; whoever insults<sup>[b]</sup> his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell<sup>[c]</sup> of fire.”***

As Jesus stated you think I came to abolish the Law no to fulfill it!

To enhance the Law, it was not just the final action of evil in the mind of the natural man but the thought process behind it! What leads up to sin is the temptation in the minds of man.

Christ teaching is not contrary to the law but broader than the law. Anger that builds within the mind to become a rage is the warning here! This is the teaching of the law enhanced.

Anger is an emotion that will come into our minds as a reaction to events affecting us or our surroundings. Jesus is teaching the broader meanings of our own nature. To realize the danger and to come to terms with what being a Christian is in following the beatitudes .

Matthew 5: 5,7,8,9

***<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***

***<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.***

***<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

***<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.***

Jesus is teaching to take away the anger for murder and revenge are grounds to build up to physical actions of murder or violence.

This is the Gospel!

The dangers of anger!

We see this in the most common of places these days on our streets and highways. What turns into a single action by one driver turns into a violent action on the roads endangering not just the two drivers but others on the same road.

Anger and violence are part of the devils' tools and is the direct opposite of the teachings of our Lord Jesus! This lesson this morning is deep in meaning to bring us out of our sinful natures of anger and realize we are all capable to lose control if we are not rooted in the word of God.

As we grow in Christ his works and follow his teachings, we become more sensitive more discerning to the world around us. We see how this current culture has become a culture of hate and violence in our own communities here in Rochester.

Jesus goes on to teach us to Love one another and do forgive and work with you brothers and sisters to work for forgiveness. Settle all disputes before they go to become legal issues in court.

Come to peaceful terms with your Brothers in Sisters be the peacemaker. Make it a priority to do so leave in peace with all your dealings.

Matthew 5: 23-26

***3" So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny."***

Lust

Matthew 5: 27-28

***"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery. '[a] 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."***

You see the Law is a mirror a curb to sin to look at the mirror and see our true self. *But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*"

*Gospel saves us through Jesus!*

*Reading Theory Notes from the Ft. Wayne Seminary study on Law and Gospel*

*Here all doctrines finally converge. / God confronts man in terms of his justice and mercy!*

The Law that Jesus came to uphold and advance.

Matthew 5: 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."***

The law is convicting it is straight forward and cuts to the heart. How hard it is to control the human mind and emotions.

But here in the teachings of Jesus he stands to correct us for his Love for us not show the results of the sin that causes unending pain for the results of Adultery are broken lives that lead to a painful divorce, broken hearts broken families. Our Father is teaching us for all to hear and know he is correcting us for his love for us.

The question asked in Proverbs depicts the dangers that arise from lustful intentions. Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his cloths not burn. Christ wants us to exhibit sexual purity in our inner thoughts as well as our outward deeds.

When we are guilty of sexual sins Christ calls us to repentance and faith to look to his cross for pardon and cleansing.

To the foot of the cross of Christ is where we are to go to seek his saving grace to give us healing from the wounds of Sin that afflict us in this life! His mercy and grace are given to each of us!

His Grace and Mercy:

***It Heals***

***It forgives.***

***It forgets our sins forever!***

If you get anything from this message most importantly remember that whatever you are facing in this life today come to the Cross of Christ his blood has washed you clean.

Jesus saves us from our Selves

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus!