

Sermon Notes

“Life under the rule of King Jesus” Forgiveness and Faithfulness

A few things I need to remember from hearing today’s Bible Reading and Teaching.

The Bible Reading

Matthew 5:21-37

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,’^[Exodus 20:13] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’^[An Aramaic term of contempt] is answerable to the court. And 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 or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; 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 together on the way, or your adversary 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 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’^[Exodus 20:14] 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 stumble, 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 stumble, 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.

31 “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’^[Deuteronomy 24:1] 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ 34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath 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 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (NIV)

A Prayer

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Bible Study

Discuss: Go back and familiarise yourself with the verses that have gone before (Matthew 5:1-20). Share what you’ve learnt from these verses with your group. The reason being what follows is the practical out working of these verses in the life of the Christian.

Read Matthew 5:21-37 in three sections.

- Verses 21-26
- Then verses 27-32
- Then verses 33-37

and answer the three questions below for each set of verses in turn.

Questions:

1. What is your first reaction to hearing what you’ve just read?
2. What is Jesus teaching the Christian to do and understand, and why?
3. How would doing what Jesus has taught be a “blessing” to others and to yourself?

Take time to pray according to what you have learnt.