

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
SoM, Part 16: Greater Righteousness, Part 4

Last time...3rd Topic: Divorce

We learned that the topics of Divorce and Adultery cannot be separated...
because God's Marriage Contract is "unto death" and man is not to tear
asunder what God has joined together
Therefore we are not to play fast and loose with that which God calls holy: marriage

Thank you Jesus, for your grace and mercy (John 1:17)

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.
And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous:

This time...4th and 5th Topics of Greater Righteousness: Oaths and Vengeance

Oaths

v33 Thou shalt forswear thyself:

4th Topic of Greater Righteousness: our word

- Assertive: I will or I won't do something (aka an oath)
- Promissory: I promise to do or not do something (aka a vow)

Num 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his
soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according
to all that proceedeth out of his mouth

Deut 23:21-22

forbear: "I make no promises"

Eccl 5:1-5

forswear: "commit perjury"

- lying
- not do what said or do what said would not

The Tables of God's Law were given to govern relationships with God and
relationship between people...

Do not commit perjury with God or with anyone

v34-36 Swear not at all:

Do not offer anything as “proof” of how good our word is

- God’s throne...heaven, a place of holiness and purity
- the earth...where God rests His feet

- our life...Who holds our breath in His hand and keeps our heart beating, Who knows the number of our days?

- Jerusalem...the city of the great King
 - Ps 48:1-2 Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, *is* mount Zion, *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

 - where the Lord “placed” His Name
 - Deut 16:1-6 shadows of the week we are entering

 - name = “shem” = a Hebrew letter
 - from the south of Jerusalem looking north toward the City of David [pic]
 - Kidron Valley
 - Tyropoeon (Ty-ro-pe-un) Valley (Valley of the Cheesemakers)
 - Hinnom Valley
 - “Hill of Evil Council”
 - Site of UN HQ in Jerusalem
 - In 1947 UN declared Jerusalem to be “international city”
 - “peacekeepers”

 - Zech 12:1-11 cup of trembling, burdensome stone
 - Zech 14:1-4 all nations gathered against, destroyed
 - Rev 19:11-19 by Kok and Lol

If we cannot or will not keep our word, don’t give it

Do not make an oath or vow we won’t honor

Do not make “cross my heart and hope to die” promises, guarantees

Do not speak carelessly, rashly, insincerely

Not keeping our word is perjury...lying

Greater Righteousness demands total honesty and integrity with God and man

v37 Yea...nay:

God says what He means and means what He says
So should His children (John 1:12), unlike the children of the devil (John 8:44)
a liar and the father of lies

Jesus commands total honesty and integrity (quoted in James 5:12)

No loopholes
No word plays
No lies...not even "white" lies
No ambiguities or twists
No hidden agendas

Make our word good, just as our Father in heaven does
Be faithful to our word...as God is faithful to His Word.
Be true to our word...as the God Who is True
Be men and women of our word...with God and with everyone

Rather than blustery guarantees, just do the right thing
Let our actions speak of the honesty and integrity of our words

Vengeance

v38 eye for an eye...tooth for a tooth:

The Law speaks of punitive restoration...
retribution, recompense/re-payment/payback

Ex 21:23-25 And if *any* mischief (hurt) follow, then thou shalt give life for life,
Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Lev 24:19-20 And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbor; as he hath done, so
shall it be done to him; Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for
tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to
him

Deut 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity; *but* life *shall go* for life, eye for eye,
tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

The Law provides like-for-like justice for the injured person while at the same
time protecting the offender from exorbitant/excessive penalty

v39a But I say unto you, resist not evil:

The Lawgiver Himself teaches a Greater Righteousness regarding payback:
grace and truth (John 1:17)

The Law does teach of retribution and recompense...but it also speaks of pardon

Rather than “getting even”, Jesus is teaching His hearers/learners/disciples to not resist...withstand or oppose
evil...malice, wickedness

- in general...anything hurtful or malicious
- person
 - an adversary that is in the wrong (per Word)
 - The Adversary that opposes God

Instead of opposing evil, Jesus teaches 4 counter-cultural responses to evil

v39b right cheek...the other also:

1. Turn the other cheek

The smiting/striking on the right cheek was

- an act of hostility/violence
- an act of degradation/humiliation
with the back of the right hand, which was an insult...
especially in the Jewish culture

The natural response when punched/slapped in the face or insulted:
strike back in self-defense or retaliation (in Jr Hi, only time ever for me)

The unnatural, therefore supernatural, response:
love (agape, selfless, self-last) and grace (a gift undeserved)

The Father did not send His Son to retaliate or “punch back” against sinners but
to manifest His love and grace for sinners...to take our insults

Is 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that
plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and
spitting.

The Son so sends His disciples to endure the insults and attacks of evil

e.g. a woman lambasting a pastor’s wife, words spoken that were not edifying or
encouraging but were insulting, condemning, angry, and self-righteous
and the pastor’s wife responding with grace vs “in kind”

v40 sue thee at the Law...coat:

2. Live peaceably vs contentiously, even to the surrendering of our “rights”

Meekness (v5)

Merciful (v7)

Pure in heart (v8)

Peaceful (v9)

Enduring persecution (v10-12)

“Articles” in the
Constitution of the Kingdom

This is radical in the Jewish ears!

Ex 22:26-27 If thou at all take thy neighbor's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: For that *is* his covering only, it *is* his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I *am* gracious.

Deut 24:12-13 And if the man *be* poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge: In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD thy God.

An individual's coat could not be taken as a pledge or any other reason...
now someone is suing you for it and you are supposed to...
let him have it and give your cloke too!

Jesus is saying that

- His disciples are to voluntarily offer their adversary even the one item the Law prohibits him from taking
- citizens of the Kingdom of God are to be willing to
 - cling to eternal riches vs material possessions/things
 - abdicate our legal “rights” as worldly citizens in order to witness of the love and grace of our King

As citizens of the Kingdom of God, the disciples of Jesus

- hold the Word of God as the Final Authority in all situations
- appeal to the justice of Righteous Judge above that of worldly judge
- forgive the wrongs against us as we have been forgiven of our wrongs against God
- extend the grace that has been extended to us

e.g. Monica's sisters after their mother (of 11) was killed by a drunk driver:
decided to not sue the drunk driver

We do so in the world and especially in the Church

1 Cor 6:1-7

Allowing ourselves to be cheated and defrauded...

supernatural vs natural response in the “clash of kingdoms”

v41 compel thee to go a mile:

3. Go the extra mile

The Roman Empire occupied conquered territory ala Judea

A Roman soldier could demand any “non-citizen” (non-Roman, occupied citizen) to carry his equipment for a mile...the request was legally binding

The value of Roman citizenship in the Roman Empire

Acts 22:24-29

The value of citizenship

Accidental Terrorist

Phil 3:20

Heb 11:13 strangers and pilgrims on earth

2nd mile = Miracle Mile, it transforms our life and those who receive the witness

1st Mile _____

legal mile

slave mile

victim mile

conquered mile

Law

2nd Mile _____

love mile

smile mile

victor mile

conquering mile

Grace

Jesus’ whole life was that of a 2nd miler...He tells ours is to be also

Jesus is elevating our viewpoint to His Kingdom and our citizenship in it/Him!

Therefore, we must keep our citizenship papers “in order”

v42 Give:

4. Help

Jesus sees malicious hurtful actions as cries for help

In an evil world that is all about “Me First and Gimme Gimme”,

always help those who ask for help...even if “asking” in an evil way voluntarily, with an “extra mile” heart

When you are able to help, give...not loan, but give without strings attached... to anyone in need who asks for help.

James 2:14-18

Did Jesus ever refuse anyone when they asked Him for help?

We are to have the mind of Christ

Help, not harm

Bless, not curse

Forgive, as we have been forgiven

Rather than teaching revenge, Jesus is teaching that we do not resist/oppose evil persons

Not only does that sound counter-cultural, does that not also sound contrary to our mission as soldiers in the Lord's army?

James 4:7b Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

1 Peter 5:8-9 resist our adversary roaming around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

Perhaps at first blush, but upon closer examination, not at all

Israel's deliverance from Egypt (plagues, Red Sea)

The destruction of Egypt came via...plagues of the Lord

"Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

"The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace."

Israel's defeat of enemies in the wilderness

"Fear him not, for I have delivered him into your hand."

Israel's conquest of the land of Canaan

"The Lord your God which goes before you, He shall fight for you."

"Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The Lord fought for Israel.

The cycles in Judges

The Lord raised up judges to deliver them out of the hand of those (enemies) who spoiled them.

"Surely I will be with you."

The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon...

David and Goliath

"I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, whom you have defied."

"The battle is the Lord's."

Jehoshaphat

"Neither know we what to do but our eyes are upon You."

"Be not afraid nor dismayed by the reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's."

James 4:7-8a

1 Peter 5:6-11

submit self to God, draw nigh to God
humble self before God, cast your care upon Him,
be stedfast in the faith (of Jesus and in Jesus)
the God of grace will make you, the glory is His

Luke 21:12-19

Acts 7:51

2 Tim 3:1-8

The Holy Spirit resists, we “endure/wait patiently”
Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do
always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.
perilous times, men resist the truth: men of corrupt minds,
reprobate concerning the faith.

Matt 6:13

John 17:15

2 Thes 3:3

2 Tim 4:18

lead us not into temptation but...deliver us from evil
I pray...keep them from the evil
the Lord is faithful...keep you from evil
the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and will
preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom

Eph 6:13

1 Peter 3:9

1 Peter 3:17

Rom 12:17-21

whole armor...to withstand in the evil day, to stand
not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing
better...suffer for well doing than for evil doing

Jude 9

Michael to the devil: The Lord rebuke thee

The Lord resists evil that resists Him...we are instructed to not resist

Heb 10:30 Vengeance belongs to Me, I will recompense, says the Lord

Jesus Christ's disciples are witnesses of His love and grace

The Bride of Christ has a ministry of

1. Turning the other cheek
2. Living peaceably, even to our own hurt
3. Going the extra mile
4. Helping, not hurting
5. Reconciliation...not vengeance

2 Cor 5:18-20 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to
himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of
reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling
the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto
them; and hath committed unto us the word of
reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as
though God did beseech *you* by us; we pray *you* in Christ's
stead, be ye reconciled to God.

The 2 Witnesses in Rev 11 do NOT have that ministry!

We do...

- outside (in the world) with unbelievers
- inside (the Church) with “siblings”

Let us be faithful to OUR calling

Matt 16:24

Jesus is not teaching passivism,
we are not to be defenseless doormats.
Instead, since vengeance belongs to the Lord,
don't stand up for/demand our “rights”
(we've surrendered our rights to Him)

Matt 10:16-20

We have been sent as sheep among wolves
We are sheep
We are not wolves or sheep-in-wolves-clothing
We hear the voice of our GOOD Shepherd and follow Him
He protects His flock from the wolves

Eph 6:10-18

Strong...in the Lord
In the power...of His might
Our weapons (2 Cor 10:3-5): prayer and the Sword of the Spirit

As citizens of the Kingdom (not a democracy), we serve the King and not the President
Presidents are His servants (Rom 13)
We submit to The King's servant

Is the King the President? No
Is the President the King? No

If the servant of the Lord the President opposes the King his Master,
do we oppose the President?
No, let the King oppose the President that is opposing Him
We follow the King but not the President because the
Word of God is our Final Authority, not the President
or the law of the land

Should we vote for President, participate in elections?

Absolutely Yes, with Biblical criteria

- Israel
- Abortion...shedding of innocent blood
- Sanctity of Marriage...attack on the image of God

We are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God
We are to be more concerned about the glory of our King than politics
We are to be more concerned with the lost...the Father's business...
 than we are political candidates...nasty political business
We are to be more passionate about eternal matters than earthly matters

We will conclude our worship service with "Closing Prayer Groups."

Let us break into groups of no more than 4 and pray...about that which "registered" in our hearts

Oaths

- Thanksgiving that God is faithful to His Word
- Petition: we make good our word to God and man as does our Father

Vengeance

- Attitude adjustment toward those who wrong us
- Holy Spirit upon to help us with the ministry of reconciliation
- Have the mind and ministry of Jesus Christ: Grace, not vengeance

Let us leave here in one accord with the Lord God Almighty