



Minutes With Jesus

Straight Talk From The Savior
About The Things That Matter Most

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“Straight Talk About Your Relationships”

MATTHEW 5:21-26

Introduction: Today, we are ready to jump into the heart of Jesus’ most famous sermon as He shares God’s standard for experiencing fulfilling relationships.

I. Raising The Bar Of Righteousness (Matthew 5:17-20)

A. Jesus’ View of the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17-19)

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

B. Jesus’ View of Righteousness (Matthew 5:20)

Matthew 5:20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

C. A Reminder about Righteousness

1. Judicial righteousness

Romans 4:5 “But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

2. Ethical righteousness

Theme: Those who model the attitudes, actions, and affections of Jesus Christ experience genuine joy in this life and unending happiness in the next life.



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II. **The Old Testament Standard For Relationships: Don't Murder** (Matthew 5:21)

Matthew 5:21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court’.”

Romans 13:1-4 ¹ “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ for rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”

Exodus 22:2-3 ² “If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account. ³ But if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account. He shall surely make restitution; if he owns nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.”

Luke 22:36 “And He said to them, ‘But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.’”

III. **Jesus' Standard For Relationships** (Matthew 5:22)

Matthew 5:22 “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.”

A. **Murder by Infuriation** (Ephesians 4:26-27)

Ephesians 4:26-27 ²⁶ “BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

“Straight Talk About Your Relationships” MATTHEW 5:21-26**B. Murder by Devaluation** (James 3:8-10)

James 3:8-10 ⁸ “But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”

C. Murder by Defamation (Proverbs 22:1; Proverbs 11:9)

Proverbs 22:1 “A good name is to be more desired than great wealth. Favor is better than silver and gold.”

Proverbs 11:9 “With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.”

IV. Jesus’ Standard For Repairing Relationships (Matthew 5:23-26)**A. Reconciliation Is More Powerful than Revenge** (Matthew 5:23-24)

Matthew 5:23-24 ²³ “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to our brother, and then come and present your offering.”

B. Reconcile Today Rather than Tomorrow (Matthew 5:25-26)

Matthew 5:25-26 ²⁵ “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.”