

July 14, 2019



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Love One Another Matt 5:21-32

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Matthew likely wrote his Gospel account after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70. This outcome marked the end of Judaism being focused on the sacrificial system as practiced by the priesthood in the temple in Jerusalem. What survived the temple's destruction was a Judaism focused on the law and its interpreters, a shift that began in the Babylonian exile. Any Jewish reader of Matthew's Gospel would have been particularly interested in what Jesus had to say about the law. Jesus had no intention of demolishing the Law of Moses, which included prohibitions against murder and adultery. Jesus' approach to the law was one of great respect; but it also held that simply following the law in a public manner was futile because of hypocritical hearts. Jesus' teaching was not the simple righteousness of the Jewish teachers of the law and Pharisees of his day (Matthew 5:20), which would prohibit the physical acts of murder and adultery but say nothing to the heart of the matter. The teachers of the law and Pharisees were educated men, held in esteem by common folks for their knowledge and exemplary public lives (23:5-7). However, Jesus knew the hearts of the teachers of the law and Pharisees (see John 2:24) and repeatedly called them hypocrites (Matthew 23:13, 15, 23, 25, 29, etc.), ones who purposefully hid their sinfulness. He likened them to "whitewashed tombs," looking clean on the outside but holding the uncleanness of dead bodies on the inside (23:27). There is a basic three-part pattern to the following sayings of Jesus. First, he gives a statement of a commandment from the Law of Moses, framed as something taught from ancient times. Second, he presents an expansion of this law as given by later teachers and interpreters. Third, Jesus announces a more rigorous version of this teaching, looking to root out the cause of the sin in the heart, not just the action itself.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Watch Your Tone, Inside and Out** - The Jews who listened to Jesus understood the commandment prohibiting murder. Jesus took this a step further and said whoever is harboring a murderous intent or spirit in his or her heart will face judgment as well as the one who's taken a life. This also applies to one's silent or spoken attitude degrading a person.

**Be at Peace** - How God's children relate to one another is important to the Father. He desires for them to be at peace with one another, more than regularly performing religious duties. Slander brought about through anger should be settled quickly to avoid prosecution of the slanderer.

**Refrain from Lusting** - While Jesus spoke against the physical act of adultery, He also addressed the kind of adultery that occurs in the mind. Both actions defile the heart of an individual. Jesus goes on to say if a hand or eye causes a person to sin—cut off the offending body. Was Jesus encouraging physical mutilation? Absolutely not. He was instead underlining the seriousness of these sins and the need to depart from them.

**Be Committed to Your Spouse** - The final teaching Jesus addressed in this section of the sermon was divorce. The Jewish tradition allowed a man to do away with his wife for any minor offence, so some of them changed wives like socks. Jesus let the husbands know God failed to recognize their divorce for insignificant reasons. Unfaithfulness, He said, would be the only grounds for breaking up a marriage in the sight of God. If either party married another, it was also considered adultery.

**Seek to Make Peace with God and Others** - When was Jesus asked what are the most important commandments, He answered: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. The reason there is so much conflict and hatred among people is because these godly instructions are ignored. Loving God and receiving His love makes it possible to show compassion to others.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
God's Law shows us a need that only God's grace can supply

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Though freed from the law with its stern commands No longer ruled by its harsh demands—  
I'm bound by Christ's love and am only free To live and to act responsibly

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*

**(Rom 8:3-4 NKJV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread", May 25, 1996)*

### **Next Two Weeks**

**Lessons from:**  
Bro. Don Smarto

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Love Reconciles (Matt 5:21-26)**

#### *Reconciliation from anger (21-22)*

Anger, which could lead to murder, gives Satan a foothold (Eph 4:26-27)

Anger, which could lead to murder, does not bring about the righteous life that God desires (James 1:20)

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3:13-15)

God's condemnation is for anger without cause (Barnes Notes on Matt 5:22)

Three kinds of offences (Adam Clarke on Matt 5:22)

#### *Reconciliation through reconciled unity (23-26)*

Reconciled unity through God composing the members of the body (1 Cor 12:24-28)

Reconciled unity in Christ (Phil 2:1-4)

Reconciled unity through baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13)

Reconciled unity into one faith (Eph 4:4-6)

Reconciled unity that lets the world know that Jesus was sent by God (John 17:23)

Reconciled unity through the Church (Eph 4:10-13)

Reconciled unity through love (Col 3:14)

Reconciled unity because Jesus became our peace (Eph 2:14-16)

Reconciled unity through Jesus' blood (Col 1:19-22)

Reconciled unity that requires humility, seeking God's face and a repentant heart (2 Chron 7:14)

### **Love Remains Faithful (Matt 5:27-32)**

#### *Faithful in avoiding immorality (27-28)*

Avoid immorality because it is not God's will (1 Thess 4:3)

Avoid immorality because it makes one unclean (Matt 15:19-20)

Avoid immorality because it is improper for God's people (Eph 5:3)

Avoid immorality because it is a sin against own body (1 Cor 6:18)

Avoid immorality because the body is not meant for immorality (1 Cor 6:13)

Avoid immorality because it can cause death (1 Cor 10:8)

Avoid immorality because the wrath of God comes because of it (Col 3:5-6)

Avoid immorality because it results in punishment (Jude 1:7)

#### *Faithful in maintaining a sanctified body (29-30)*

A sanctified body that has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:9-11)

A sanctified body that has been sanctified by God's Will (1 Thess 4:3)

A sanctified body because of being a vessel for noble purposes (2 Tim 2:20-21)

A sanctified body because God Himself sanctified it (1 Thess 5:23-24)

A sanctified body because of being chosen by God (1 Peter 1:2)

A sanctified body through the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-14)

A sanctified body through faith in the washing of God with pure water (Heb 10: 22)

#### *Faithful in marriage (31-32)*

Marriage because a wife is worth more than any wealth (Prov 31:10)

Marriage that prevents the improper actions toward future mate (1 Cor 7:36)

Marriage without sexually immorality (Heb 13:4)

Marriage without acting like someone who does not know God (1 Thess 4:3-6)

Marriage with the basis of love (Eph 5:28)

Marriage with the basis of respect and consideration (1 Peter 3:7)

Marriage with the basis of pleasing the mate (1 Cor 7:33-34)

Marriage with no desire for divorce (1 Cor 7:27)