



Empowering People to Change the World

A New Heart Attitude: Love is the Gold Standard

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A New Heart Attitude-Love is the Gold Standard

*God can move mountains in my life
I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word
I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, all things are possible*

- We are going through the Sermon on the Mount.
- Out of sincerity, the Pharisees had set up laws for men that cause us to be able to follow the Law. But we know from Paul that the Law was given to lead us to Christ. The Law was to tutor us to our need for Christ.
 - They had set up a system not a relationship with God.
 - It was a relationship with the Law, but not the Author of the Law.
- Jesus is not coming to destroy the Law but to fulfill the Law, and the fulfillment of the Law is love from the heart.
- Jesus is taking on the Religious Establishment with a new radical perspective:
 - Jesus, the radical Kingdom Revolutionary.
 - Jesus, the “activist of the heart.”
 - The Religious Perspective is that of the outward man, the outward woman; behavior and conduct.
 - The Jesus Perspective is that everything in life revolves around the inward man, the inward woman and the heart. Change the heart, change one's actions.
 - **Love is the gold standard of the Kingdom of God!**
 - **You cannot do this without God's power at work in your heart!**

Unless we cultivate a passion of love for Jesus, the Kingdom and His righteousness *greater* than our passion for anger, lust and selfishness, we will not change!

- Once again, Jesus is taking on the Religious Establishment that was more focused on the Letter of the Law than the Spirit or Heart of the Law.
- When we focus primarily on the Letter rather than the Person, we become Pharisees.

Matthew 5:33-37

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

- If you make an oath, you should keep it. No place is this more important than in marriage, as we covered last week.
- The Pharisees had once again developed all these different kinds of oaths, some greater and some lesser.
- Jesus is saying it does not matter whether you swear by heaven or earth, all oaths are important.
- For example, look at verse 36. Now this is before you could change the color of your hair. By the way folks, it is a losing battle. When you see someone 90 years old with jet black hair, it is pass the point of trying! What’s the point?

- You may hear people say, “I swear to God...I swear to God I’ll pay you back.” If someone says that, then probably you cannot trust them.
- It is overhearing my son Josh telling Charity, “If you hear someone say to you, ‘this is a true story’ more than once, it is probably not a true story!”
- If you say “yes or no” in an oath, then have integrity and be faithful to your word.
- It is amazing. It used to be said that your “word was your bond.” I bought an ATV last week and because of my relationship with the salesman, he took my “yes” as my bond and he did the needed additions on the ATV with no collateral from me.

Matthew 5:38-39

³⁸ ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.***

- This is what Scripture said. The leaders at that time were saying that it was an obligation to pay people back for anything that was done to you.
- But Jesus is reinterpreting the Law through a heart of love!
 - Do not strike back!
 - That is what Jesus did at the cross.
 - Jesus does not ask us to do anything He has not done.

Matthew 5:40-42

⁴⁰ ***If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.***

- There was a Roman Law at the time that said if a Roman soldier wanted you to carry his pack, you had to go for one mile.

- Jesus is saying in each case: BE THE KINGDOM. Maybe it will create an opportunity for God! For a person to get saved.
 - Love is powerful! People of love are persuasive!
 - Jesus is challenging us to create a Kingdom Atmosphere, a Kingdom Opportunity through doing the opposite of our culture.
 - Love instead of anger; love instead of hatred; love instead of swearing false oaths you will never keep; love where people want to use you! This is radical stuff.
 - You cannot do this! We must have the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:43-44

⁴³ ***“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’*** ⁴⁴ ***But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,***

- I really do not like this part because it is really hard. We need to go back verses 3-12.
- Bless them that curse you! What? In traffic? In the church? Your neighbor next door? The guy at work who basically set you up to be fired?
- And I do pray for them! “God you get ’em!!”
- It was Jesus who prayed, “Forgive them Lord for they know not what they do.” Jesus did this! This is supernatural stuff!!
 - Again, it is an attitude. It is what makes us different.
 - It demonstrates the Kingdom!!
 - We are not supposed to act like the world.
 - Let’s be a church like this. The Body of Christ is human and we make the same mistakes, the same struggles.

Matthew 5:45-48

⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- Perfect? Not sinless but mature; be grown up children of God. Grow up before you grow old. Show the virtues of the Kingdom of God, a new way of life.
- Do not miss this, Jesus says “Father” here. Three times we have heard “Father” in chapter 5, but in chapter 6, we will see the title “Father” twelve times!
 - This is blowing the Jewish leaders minds! Never did Moses look to heaven and say “Abba Father.” Never did Elijah, David or Solomon
 - They never looked to heaven and said “Father” or “Daddy!”
 - A radically new paradigm shift!
- This is a “Father Kingdom” not a “God Father Kingdom.”
 - Some of you think of God as “The God Father” like if you make a mistake, He will tie you up with cement blocks and drop you in the river.
 - No, it is Father God, not God Father!
 - It is a relationship of love between God our Father and you and me as His children!

3 Truths that Enable you to Live the Kingdom

Romans 8:11

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us

- You cannot do this stuff in your own flesh. In other words, in your own power! Not possible.
- This is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit! You must be filled and surrendered to the Holy Spirit's power in your life.

Romans 8:12-14

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

2. We are Children of God led by the Spirit

- If you try to follow the Law in your own power, it will always lead to death! But if you surrender to God's power and let Him do it through you, you will live!!
- You are then led by the Spirit because God is your Father and leads, guides and speaks to His children.
- What I mean is that God will speak to you! I am always relying on the voice of God through wise counsel, the Word, and my divine intuition. God guides me. But if you are not in His Word or do not have wise Christian counsel, do not trust your intuition!!

Romans 5:15

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

3. We can have an Intimate Relationship with God the Father

- We can cry out to God our Father. No other religion in the world makes this crazy assertion—the Creator of the Universe is your adopted Father.

Romans 5:16-17

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- We have this incredible inheritance! We are Kings and Queens and Priests in the Kingdom of God.