



Empowering People to Change the World

A New Heart Attitude-Covenant of Harmony

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***God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit
With Jesus, nothing will be impossible***

In our passage today, we are making a profound shift in the Sermon on the Mount. From this point, Jesus will take on the Pharisees at a heart level they have never heard before.

Radical Teaching from Jesus—a New Attitude of Living

- Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees, “the separated ones” and they were known for keeping the Law perfectly.
- Jesus came to teach the essence of the Law. The heart attitude not just the activities of religion.
- The Pharisees would walk with their head down lest they lust for a woman; take out their false teeth on Friday so they would not be doing any work on the Sabbath.
- The issues of the heart! This is what Jesus is most concerned about.
- The Sermon on the Mount is all about Kingdom Living! This is what it means to be citizen of the Kingdom.
 - To show us how much we need God.
 - We must have a savior.
 - Jesus is redefining a Kingdom Attitude toward Scripture.

I want all of you to note that this has everything to do with relationships with people, not just an intellectual connection with the Bible but interpersonal connection with people.

Jesus is contrasting our old man, our old way in relationships and challenging all of us to develop a new attitude toward people; even and especially with people we do not get along with.

Matthew 5:17-20

17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

There is no other passage in all of the Bible more powerful in affirming by Jesus, that the Bible is God’s Word and it can be trusted! Completely trusted. This is the ringing affirmation of the authority of God’s Word through Jesus.

We now look at the Scriptures not just as a Law for living, but an intimate Love for the Giver of Life.

Matthew 5:21-26

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Breaking the Power of Anger and Contempt with Spirit of Reconciliation

- He begins with how easily we fall into anger and contempt for people, labeling them as fools and empty headed.
- Note that He is speaking of “without cause” (He’s not saying put your head on the shelf. If there is cause you should use discernment.)
- But He is speaking of contempt because of one’s outward appearance or background.
 - Political affiliation
 - Race, gender, or ethnicity
 - Even their age

Worship begins with reconciliation

- Do not pretend everything is okay when you come to worship if you are holding a grudge against someone.
- Go and make things right. Try to reconcile.
- This is why we put such a value on the Covenant of Harmony.
- **Matthew 18:15-19**
¹⁵ “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.¹⁸ “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
- Most of the time we judge people before we understand what the issue really is. Jesus is challenging us to work things out one-on-one.

At The Road we value living in a Covenant of Harmony.

