

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

CHAPTER 5:13-48

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INTRODUCTION

- Context: Continuing the Sermon on the Mount, following on from the Beatitudes (verses 1-11)
- Written to believers
- Three sections: How we are to impact society (v13-16)
Christ fulfils the law (v17-20)
Relating to one another (v21-48)

5:13-16 SALT AND LIGHT

- **Salt:** Preservative
Creates thirst
Enhances flavour
- **Light:** Seen from a distance
Dispels darkness
Illuminates the way



5:13-16 SALT AND LIGHT - LIGHTHOUSES

- Chosen and located
- Strong foundations and materials
- Withstand storms
- Shine when needed, showing the way and seen from long distances
- Managed by the Trinity (House)

5:17-20 CHRIST FULFILS THE LAW

How?

Free from our sinful nature

One perfect sacrifice on the cross paying for our sin

All that is required – “it is finished”

What is there for us to do?

NOTHING except believe in the gospel – saved by faith

5:17-20 CHRIST FULFILS THE LAW

Is the law abolished?

No. To be taken seriously.

Reveals sin.

Moral laws still a relevant – a standard for living

But the law cannot save, only faith in Jesus can do that.

The law points to the cross.

5:21-48 RELATING TO ONE ANOTHER

In the next section, Jesus goes on to teach God's heart behind the law, not more rules but attitudes and the importance of how we think.

Begins each of six sections with "You've heard said" or similar, then "but I say to you" as He explains.

5:21-48 RELATING TO ONE ANOTHER

Law written on our hearts (Jer 31:33, 2Corr3:3)

Obedience through love for God and relationship with Him through Jesus empowered by Holy Spirit.

5:21-26 MURDER BEGINS IN THE HEART

Begins with an angry thought – hatred of another and thoughts of murder are still a sin.

What are we to do? Seek reconciliation and resolve the matter

Don't let the sun go down on our wrath

Resolve differences with an enemy before anger makes things worse



5:27-30 ADULTERY

Begins with a lustful thought, which are a sin. If the act is wrong, so is the intention.

Such thoughts can also break the trust vital to a marriage.

In v29 and 30, Jesus is speaking figuratively, not inciting us to maim ourselves! Even a blind man can still lust.

He is making the point that it is better to lose something we treasure than to allow sin to continue.

5:31-32 DIVORCE

Incredibly painful for those involved and for God

Marriage is intended for life.

In Jesus day, divorce had become too easy. Perhaps that could be said of today?

5:33-37 OATHS

God keeps His promises, so should we.

Keeping promises builds trust and makes committed relationships possible.

If we tell the truth and are known to have integrity, we have less pressure to back up our words with oaths as what we say is known by others to be reliable.

5:38-42 RETRIBUTION

“Don’t get mad, get even” – our natural instinct but not Jesus’ way

Mosaic Law was proportional – an eye for an eye.....

Criminal justice system – punishment fit the crime

Jesus tells us to bear with those who insult or even hurt us.

Justice should be our motivation, not revenge, but He goes on with more.....

5:43-48 LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Jesus tells us not to retaliate, taking the law into our own hands. Instead forgive and pray for those who hurt us and love them as God does.

Strength from Holy Spirit needed to accomplish this.

Paul says “overcome evil with good” (Rom 3:21)

Holy Spirit can help us love those whom we may not naturally love

5:48 BE PERFECT

Jesus leaves us at the end of this part of His sermon with one last challenge:

“Therefore, you shall be perfect , just as your Father in heaven is perfect”

How?



5:48 BE PERFECT

Choose to aspire to be like Christ, allowing Holy Spirit to change us

Choose to separate ourselves from the attitudes of the world

Choose to be devoted to God's desires rather than our own

Choose to be ambassadors for Christ – salt and light in the world

Choose to be obedient to His word through love and relationship



5:48 BE PERFECT

Jesus calls His disciples, you and me, to excel, to mature in every area of our Christian lives becoming more and more like Him.

This is sanctification and is a life-long journey.

One day we will be perfect in glory as He completes his transformative work in us!