

## The Kingdom of Heaven Redeemed Relationships Matt 5.21-26

[Jesus, in giving this Sermon on the Mount has shared the **Be-Attitudes** with His listeners. He then told them that they must be **Salt and Light** in this world. He then told them that in order to be the Salt and Light they need to be they must **regard the source of their light, the Word of God**, properly.]

[Now, Jesus addresses the basic building blocks of any influence these Christians will hope to have in this world. Jesus starts dealing with their relationships and the foundation of any and all relationships. Relationships deal with how we treat each other. How we treat each other will either open doors of opportunity for us or it will close those same doors tightly shut.]

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus Says,**

**A. Take Responsibility (vs 21-22; 2 Tim 2.14-18; John 5.39) [- *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:* <sup>22</sup> *But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.* – **This is how we recover a misguided heart.**]**

**[The Heart or the Heel** – Have you ever applied your heel to a matter? You know, when something happens and you dig in your heels. Sometimes you may not only dig in your heels but you dig them into someone, perhaps not literally, but emotionally and psychologically. This is that **“I’m going to teach you”** kind of attitude. **Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount is dealing with the heart of life not the heel of life.** He is focusing on what is happening on the inside rather than the outside of a person. So often we give people our heel, or the persuasion of our hurt, rather than the promotion of our heart.]

**[In the Sermon on the mount God reveals six (6) areas where the heart is more important than the heel,]**

- [Murder (vs 21-26)]
- [Adultery (Matt 5.27-30)]
- [Divorce (Matt 5.31-32)]
- [Honesty (Matt 5.33-37)]

- [Revenge (Matt 5.38-42)]
- [Conflict (Matt 5.43-48)]

[Each of these pour out of our heart or from the core of our being. **Often we may feel like they pour out of our circumstances, but in reality they each pour out of our heart.** Situations and circumstances may provide the emotional seed for hurt harboring hearts, but you must fertilize, water, and nurture that hurt for it to grow into the monstrous plant that will ruin your relationships, witness, and life.]

The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26

In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,

A. Take Responsibility

*["Jesus is going to teach us that righteousness begins on the inside of a person." [U](#)]*

1. **Our Direction - God's Direction –vs- Religious Tradition (vs 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43; 2 Pet 1.20)** [- Five times Jesus says, "*Ye have heard that is was said. . .*" or "*It hath been said . . .*," etc . . . - **The religious leaders were teaching their interpretation of God's Word. But, their interpretation was wrong.** Jesus is giving the correct meaning of the things that God asks for in His Word. **It is not nearly as important that you hear the jargon of our day as it is that you hear God.** Many have taught things that seem right and true as if they were Scriptural truth, but under the scrutiny of diligent Bible study we discover that they were just the opinions of people based on the sinful nature of human beings.]

1 Pet 1.20

[**Supernatural Truths** - The things that Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount are supernatural in orientation. Everything that Jesus says stands in opposition to the natural tendencies of human beings. They are distinctly and divinely unique. In many regards they almost seem impossible. The natural mind could spend a lifetime just trying to achieve just one or two of these supernatural corrections. Nonetheless, Jesus declares them all and they stand in stark contrast to what people thought and religious leaders taught in Jesus day and ours.]

[**Will you hear God?** – Many today would quickly invoke the word **interpretation** here and start explaining away what God, through the God man, the Lord Jesus Christ, said that day on that mount. Their assumption is that if it is impossible for mankind to achieve the incredible standards outlined by our

Lord then we must seek to interpret the discourse under a different light, to make it more manageable. **But God says,]**

*[2 Peter 1:20<sup>20</sup> Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ]*

[Christians need to stop trying to explain away what God so clearly says, and need to let God work His truth into their lives. Someone once said, “**God said it, I believe it, that settles it.**” **But this is wrong, we ought to say, “God said it and that settles it.”** We don’t have to believe that anything God said is possible; God is going to do just what He said He would do. If God asks you to do something, then you need to know that He is going to do it.]

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God’s Direction or Religious Tradition

[In our text, Jesus says six (6) times **ye have heard** and in saying this authoritatively asks “**Will you hear God?**” So the question arises out of the chaos of the jargons of our day and God again asks us “**Will we hear God?**”]

**[Nothing is more important for you and I today than that we would hear God, understand what He says, no matter how lofty and supernatural His direction, and then strive to allow Him to work His transformation into us.]**

**[So, let us put aside our excuses and hear our Lord through this passage.]**

2. **Our Duty** (vs 21-22; **1 John 4.20-21**; Exo 20.13; John 3.16; Rom 5.8) [- *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*<sup>22</sup> **But I say unto you,** *That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.* – **Relationships are undeniably important in our lives.** Nothing reflects our relationship with God more than our relationships with other people. God says,”

1 Jn 4.20

*[1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God*

*whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. ]*

[God says in essence, if you love God, then you cannot hate those who are made in the image of God. If you love God, you must love your fellow man. This does not mean you have to love what your fellow man is doing. **We do not have to love or endorse the sins of others, but we must love the eternal soul of the person.** As a matter of fact, if you are a born again Christian and your fellowman is living in a way that will condemn him to the eternal fires of hell, your godly love will compel you to seek to rescue him, you will be forced to proclaim the gospel to him. **Tolerance is not love, proclamation is love.]**

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
2. Our Duty

**[Jesus reveals in our text that our duty is to love and esteem our fellow man. Notice what Jesus says in verse 21,**

*[Matthew 5.21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:]*

**[Just what is a murder?** Murder is understood as the taking of another's life by violence.]

[In 2015 there were 17,793 known murders in America. That's about 50 murders a day. This figure does not include suicide and abortions.<sup>[21]</sup>]

[God said in the Ten Commandments "*Thou shalt not kill*" (Exodus 20.13). Through the diligent study of this command and those passages that explain it we understand that this command means "*Thou shalt not murder.*" Human life is unique in God's creation and it is to be protected and promoted. Jesus clearly proclaims this age old command, but he challenges the understanding of the command in the minds of his listeners.]

**[The Character of God** - God's commands are not meant to be just brute commands. God's commands flow from the character of God. Therefore, to fully understand God's intentions in His commands we need to understand the characteristic of God that led to the giving of the command. What is it about

our Heavenly Father that led Him to give us this command? It is His esteem of mankind that led to this command. God says,]

*[John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ]*

*[Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ]*

[Our Lord, understanding the heart behind the command, goes on to say, in essence, that murder begins in the heart long before it kills. Jesus says,]

*[Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.]*

[Word Studies:]

- [Angry . . .without a cause - ὀργιζόμενος (gk) - **only of human and satanic anger be or become angry, be or become furious, be or become enraged.**<sup>[3]</sup> Notice here that our Lord does not say you are wrong to just feel anger. Anger is a God given emotion and there is justifiable anger. But our Lord says that if you are angry without a cause. **This is just to be angry, just because.]**
- [Raca - ῥακά (gk) - This word does not have an English equivalent, it generally means **"A valueless person."** One lexicon states, "indeclinable; *raka*; transliterated from the Aramaic; used as a term of verbal abuse **blockhead! numskull! fool!** (MT 5.22)."<sup>[4]</sup>
- [Fool - μωρό (gk) – The Greek word sounds a lot like our English moron. It speaks of a morally wasted person. "Silly, stupid, foolish, from which the Eng. word "moron" is derived. Used of persons **meaning morally worthless** (Matt. 5:22). It is a more serious reproach than *raká* (4469), *raca*, which scorns a man by calling him stupid, whereas *mōrós* scorns him concerning his heart and character."<sup>[5]</sup>

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
2. Our Duty

**[What Is The Value Of A Person** - In using the words that Jesus used He focuses us upon the heart of the matter. **Jesus is guiding us to think about what we really think and feel about our fellow man.** Jesus is asking us to realize what kind of value we place upon another human being. In leading us to discover how we feel about those around us He is comparing our esteem of other people with our Heavenly Fathers esteem of other people. All murder begins at this most basic level. **Do you value life as God values life? Do you love mankind as God loves mankind?]**

**[So, Lets Ask The Question! How Do You Feel About Those God Loves?]**

**[Your Duty** - According to God's commands and this Sermon on the Mount you have a duty to properly love your fellow man and treat them as God would treat them. But do you?]

- [Husband's how do you regard your wife?]
- [Wives how do you regard your husband?]
- [Parents how do you regard your children?]
- [Children how do you regard your Parents?]
- [Neighbors how do you regard your fellowman?]

[As I asked these questions, almost everyone in here thought of someone they know they do not treat as God would ask them to treat them. Almost immediately after realizing your error and feeling your conviction you immediately threw up your favorite excuse or reason why you feel the way you do. Understand, that Jesus is not asking for your reasons, He is directly dealing with your mistreatment. Your excuse is not a justification for your hatefulness and it stands in opposition to the vary character of your Heavenly Father. **But you will protect it (your hateful feeling).** Nonetheless, Jesus says, you need to get this right in your life.]

**[You will never be able to be right with God until you get this right in your heart and life. So what should you do?]**

- B. Give Regard (vs 23-24) – Give Respect** - *[Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother,*

The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26

In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
2. Our Duty

**B. Give Regard - Respect**

and then come and offer thy gift. – **In these Words our Lord tells us How to reconcile a murderous (hateful) heart.]**

1. **Listen** (vs 23; Isa 59.2; **Matt 6.12-15**; 1 John 4.20-21) [- Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee. – Notice here,

Matt 6.12

[**The Seeker** – One comes seeking God and God meets him with Spirit led conviction. God has a way of speaking to us when we seek Him. Your Heavenly Father desires your fellowship; He wants you to be near Him. However, **there are things that separate us from His fellowship,**]

- [Sin (Isa 59.2) ]

*[Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. ]*

- [Unforgiving heart (Matt 6.12-15).]

*[Matthew 6:12-15 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. 14For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ]*

- [Hateful heart (1 John 4.20-21).]

*[1 John 4:20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup>And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. ]*

[Notice, that there is only **one party** approaching God's altar. Many think that if that person, that did them wrong, would just come and apologize, then they could forgive them. The responsibility for your feelings and your hatefulness is yours, not theirs.]

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
2. Our Duty

**B. Give Regard - Respect**

**[Christian, you NEED to listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit within you.]**

2. **Leave (Eph 4.26)** – *Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; . . . - This is one of the few times in the Bible when we are told that something is more important than worship.* Notice, that your sacrifice is to remain, awaiting your return. This indicates that you are not to be gone long. The Bible says,]

*[Ephes. 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:]*

[God wants your worship, but He wants you to worship Him with a pure heart and so long as there is hatred and division in your heart then your heart is not pure.]

3. **Love (1 Cor 6.1-8; Luke 6.29; Heb 12.14-15)** [*first be reconciled to thy brother, . . . - You are never more like Jesus than when you are willing to forgive and to make things right. Sometimes making things right means suffering a wrong, or enduring an in justice. We are reminded of,*

1 Cor 6.1

*[1 Cor. 6:1-8 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? 4If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. 5I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. **Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?** 8Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. ]*

Heb 12.14

*[Luke 6:29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.]*

[An unloving heart becomes a bitter heart (Heb 12.14-15)]

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

**A. Take Responsibility**

1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
2. Our Duty

**B. Give Regard – Respect**

1. Listen – To Holy Spirit
2. Leave
3. Love

*[Hebrews 12:14-15 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: <sup>15</sup>Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ]*

4. **Linger** (Psalm 133.1-3; Matt 18.20) [- . . . and then come and offer thy gift .- Once you are reconciled to your fellowman then you can be wholly reconciled to your Lord and Savior.]

Psm 133.1

*[Psalm 133:1-3 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; <sup>3</sup>As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. ]*

*[Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. ]*

- C. **Receive Restoration and Renewal** [- The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is struggling all across our nation today. Many congregations have become so desperate that they have started tolerating and endorsing sin in the midst of their Churches. The need of the Body of Christ today is not that we tolerate immorality in the Church; it is that we get back to those essentials that bring God's people together in unity and in the presence of our Lord. We need to get back to the essentials of this Sermon on the Mount.]

[Hatred in our hearts will destroy our testimony, separate us from our fellowship with God and drive our world away from us and our Lord. The problem in our Churches is that there is often more hate in our congregations than there is in our world. So what do we need to do?]

1. **Restoration Begins In My Heart** [- The call of our Lord in this text and throughout the Sermon on the Mount is a call to self-examination. Ask yourself,]

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

- A. Take Responsibility**
1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
  2. Our Duty
- B. Give Regard – Respect**
1. Listen – To Holy Spirit
  2. Leave
  3. Love

- [How do I feel about my spouse? Am I feeling what my Heavenly Father says I should feel?]
- [How do I feel about my parents? Am I feeling what my Heavenly Father says I should feel?]
- [How do I feel about my boss? Am I feeling what my Heavenly Father says I should feel?]
- [How do I feel about my Fellowman? Am I feeling what my Heavenly Father says I should feel?]
- [What are my excuses? What does God say about my excuses? Will I continue to protect my excuses?]

**2. Renewal Begins with Jesus** [- Perhaps you are here today and you are not a born again Christian, then all of this sounds impossible. But nothing is impossible with God. You will find it difficult to give up your basic human right to hate, especially those who have violated you somehow. But the way to fulfillment and joy in life is through restoration and peace. The source of all restoration and peace is the Lord Jesus Christ. Supernatural relationship in this life are the result of a supernatural relationship with God. You need Jesus in your life today.]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Aug 26, 2018  
CrossRoads Baptist, Jan 18, 2009

[1] James Merritt, [www.Pastorlife.net](http://www.Pastorlife.net) <<http://www.Pastorlife.net>, Murder in the first degree, [Matt 5.21-26](#)

[2] <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/homicide.htm>

[3] Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (284). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

[4] Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (341). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

[5] Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.) (G3474). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

**The Kingdom of Heaven  
Redeemed Relationships  
Matt 5.21-26**

**In regard to our relationships, Jesus says,**

- A. Take Responsibility**
  - 1. Our Direction - God's Direction or Religious Tradition
  - 2. Our Duty
- B. Give Regard – Respect**
  - 1. Listen – To Holy Spirit
  - 2. Leave
  - 3. Love
  - 4. Linger
- C. Receive Restoration and Renewal**
  - 1. Restoration begins in the heart