

ILIFE PART TWO
“YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID”
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MATTHEW 5:21-33
2/10/08

We started this series last week titled iLife... We are looking at what Jesus taught about life through the Sermon on the Mt.

- Primarily, that God’s love really is available to you and me..., and that God can transform me into the kind of person perfectly capable of expressing that love to the world around me.

Today we are walking through the “You have heard it said...” section. He takes something from the law... then follows up w/ this statement: “But, I tell you...”

Matt 5:21
:27
:33

You have heard it said do not murder, but “I tell” don’t be angry...
 You have heard it said do not commit adultery... “”don’t even look lustfully
 You have heard it said do not break an oat... “” don’t even make an oath
 ↳ Jesus rolls through a slew of these

Love

Remember this whole Sermon on the Mt thing is about receiving God’s love and being transformed into the kind of person who lives & expresses this genuinely.

{Greek}

Jesus takes a Greek word for love... agape, and really attaches deeper meaning to it as being God’s love... does this through out the gospels...

Key to Agape

- Agape love has a **deep element of giving... giving of myself...** Offering myself for the best of another. This is the love of God.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he _____ (gave)... gave His one and only son.

City on a Hill

That’s what we saw last week with beatitudes.

Then... this gorgeous passage where he says his love will make us like a “city on a hill”, or a “light in the center of a room”

This is not about rules... not a rule: be light.... This is a statement about what you are as a follower of Christ.

Tear Apart the Law

This was so fresh and revolutionary... they are excited beyond belief... people had to be jumping to this simple conclusion... Jesus is tearing apart the law.

Picture the Crowd

You’ve got to picture this crowd... people throwing off the bondage of the religious legalist... and teachers of the law...

They are cheering... FREEDOM!!!

Mel Gibson

(ILL)

Teenage boy in a fast car... on the autobahn

- This is more than freedom from legalism... Jesus wants to actually transform us into a new person who's capable of love... agape love.

Rollercoaster

... to do this he's going to take them on an emotional roller coaster... he is going to **grow and stretch their understanding of love**

Picture yourself in the crowd...

Matt 5:17-18

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; *Yes, Yes, of course you have!!!* – I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. / What??? / I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Sit down

“Until heaven disappears? How long will that be? Does heaven have a global warming problem...? Because I think of heaven as last a long time.

“This is getting worse...”

Matt 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Lay down on the floor

“Surpass the righteousness of reli leaders??? “I’m so not capable of doing this... do you know how long and hard the law is... it is worse than the tax code...”

“Surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law... “

Role over on side

Q:

How do you surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

Golf

If life is like a game of golf... and the golf course is the law... and the Pharisees and teachers of the law are golfers.

~ The teachers of the law are freakishly good.... not like scratch golfers... It would be like them hitting a hole in one... 18 times in a row...”

Tiger

Tiger Woods would be a remedial golfer... “It takes him 2 or 3 to get the ball in.

This is where you just have to love Jesus...

Q: Can you see how the crowd would be struggling? Jesus, the master teacher, knows **it is this struggle that will help them see something much deeper. ...** Who they will become in God.

They see everything in terms of following the law... and not what the law really points to.

So when he says: Surpass the righteousness of the Teachers of the law he is forcing them to think **outside of the box.**

Mistake The mistake people make here is... They picture Jesus as a boring, uncreative... monotone teacher just laying out rules.

Jesus voice These are not new harder... stricter rules about anger, lust, divorce, or legal agreements.

Gets Strange Once we go down the road of thinking that “But I tell you...” **is code** for a new rule everything gets strange...

Matt 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. (source of many blond jokes in the first century)

New Rule: You're not allowed to call someone a fool! - You can just smell the Burger King charbroil flames lip-ing up...

↳ You can call someone a brood of vipers, sons of hell, or a white washed tomb... They're biblical names not forbid by Jesus, but not fool

Matt 23:16-17 "Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.'¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?
(*Have word fool jump out on power point*)

Q: Now... any word there just jump out at you? Yea he calls them fools.

Quiz

Why does Jesus call people fools... after he clearly stated you can't call someone a fool?

- Matt 5 comes much earlier than Matt 23, and Jesus forgot what he said earlier. / It just slipped his mind.
- Its okay if he does, but not for us. (The old parental adage applies here... "Do what I say and not as I do.") *It work for you... your parents... and your parents before you.*
- I don't know but there's probably some tricky explanation based on Greek, Hebrew, or Italian. (*famous pic of Jesus looking Italian*)

- d) Jesus had a huge breakfast of pancakes & syrup... and with all these empty calories his blood sugar crashed and he just wasn't himself. / Had he started the day w/ eggbeaters and some whole wheat toast.../ the whole episode would have gone completely different. Instead of arguing with them he would have been sipping Caramel Macchiatos down at Starbucks
- e) At least he didn't punch one of them... / After all he did obey the "Turn the Other Cheek" rule... /
- f) In Matt 5 Jesus is teaching something deeper than a rule about using the word "fool"

⇒ Jesus is rarely laying out new rules or commands.
Rather: He's teaching the way things really work in God's Kingdom...

Q: What is Jesus trying to show us about the way things are...?

~ Jesus is revealing two important things here...

1st **It's really very easy to surpass the righteousness of the scribes and teachers of the law.**

Humor To understand this... you have to know Jesus was never a boring, dry, unemotional speaker... He was captivating, he used stories, humor, intensity.

Mocking Humor
Matt 5:21

You have heard it said don't murder... You're saying you're spiritual because don't murder???" Is this the real standard of spiritual giants...?

Wow, that's **setting the bar** pretty high... woo, yea I can see how spiritual you are...

Job Interview

Q: Tell me, how well do you got along with other employees where you work now... Well I don't murder people..."

Good Husband

"Well, I don't sleep around." Is this mark of a godly husband or spouse?

He's mean, selfish, cranky... leaves his stinky socks on the kitchen table... drinks milk right out of the carton... But he's never called me "Roca" Never tried to kill me... (He's a keeper)

Picture people on the ground Cheering!!!

Picture the disappointed people on the ground thinking how can I be better than the Pharisees...? They are now cheering!!!

Jesus is saying: It's easy to surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law!!! **Just be nice!**

Barney the Dinosaur Barney the Dinosaur is more spiritual than these guys...

They are coming to see that there is something much more to the law than they ever thought.

T>> But Jesus wants to do more than just raise the standard to “be nice!”

Jesus is looking to transform you and me into the kinds of people who love w/ agape... To give ourselves away in love...

2nd **The law rightly understood points to something deeply relational – God’s love received and given away.**

Matt 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

This golden rule, James calls it the Royal Law of Love

This is not a love I just generate... this is God’s love in me

John 7:37-38

“streams of living water from w/i...” This is about me being transformed to shine like a city on a hill... Transformed so that, my fears, jealousy, contempt, and junk isn’t blocking how I live.

- One of the beautiful things about agape love is: It’s not about me. It’s about the one I love.

Concrete Examples

The Jesus is using concrete examples of agape love. Showing us what we are in God... Showing us how love will flow through us.

I give my self...

by desiring their best... I come to see them the way God sees them... despite their flaws... they are loved by God.

- All the concrete examples Jesus uses... are fundamentally not about me... They focus on the one receiving the love.
- The moment I turn Jesus teachings into rules... Is the moment I make it about me... me... and the rule I’m following. – That’s not love!

I can't get there on my own... I need God transforming something in me to see them in a loving way.... Flowing from w/i

Nature of the Law

The essence of the Law back in the O.T. was to point to the relationship of the Hebrews with God. It showed the devotion, the steadfastness, commitment between God and the Hebrews.

Lust

Matt 5:27

“”

Earthy

If you would let be a bit earthy here and talk for a moment about what Christ says about marriage, adultery, and lust.... After all Jesus is the one who brought up the subject.

This is not a rule: Don't Lust. (Don't think about having sex w/ someone other than your spouse) (So I look at pornography... just as long I don't think about having sex with the people in the pictures???) All rules have loop holes.

~ It all focuses on my behavior... My following a rule... this is shallow.

- Jesus is pointing us back to the relationship... It's not about me... It's about Angie.

I'll be the vulnerable one here for a moment:

If I see an attractive woman... and it hits me in my brain... *I'm sure I'm the only guy like that... and this never happens to women... Truth is...* with women it may not be sight... but it's something else...

The point of what Jesus is teaching here is "It's not about me" following a rule in this moment.

Q: Who is this about? Angie. Agape love is to give myself to her.

Q: The question is: How do I love Angie with the Golden Rule?
~ To give her intimacy, and security, affection, and devotion.

This is not about saying I will follow a rule that will have no sexual thoughts or feeling about others....

~ To love Angie with agape... the golden rule is to direct that energy... those thoughts... back to her... That's relating to her...

To give her my heart, mind, and body...

Really Good News

Jesus is telling me... I can be this... I can be transformed into the kind of person that really can live with agape flowing out of my life.