

HYPOCRISY

- Matthew 5:33 quotes Leviticus 19:12 for the wrong purpose (not to “categorize” oaths, but to prevent blasphemy)

Matthew 5:33-37 (MSG) And don't say anything you don't mean. This counsel is embedded deep in our traditions. **You only make things worse when you lay down a smoke screen of pious talk**, saying, 'I'll pray for you,' and never doing it, or saying, 'God be with you,' and not meaning it. You don't make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true. Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong.

SERVANTHOOD

- Matthew 5:38 quotes Exodus 21:24 for the wrong purpose (not to exact revenge, but to limit penalties)

Matthew 5:38-42 (MSG) Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.' Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And **if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life**. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

REACTION

- Matthew 5:43 quotes Leviticus 19:18 but with a Pharisaic addition (“hate”)

Matthew 5:43-47 (MSG) You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. **When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer**, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

Matthew 5:48 (MSG) In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.



The Sermon On The Mount ~ Part 1

Matthew 5:1-2 (MSG) When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

THE DISCIPLE'S REPORT CARD (Matthew 5:3-12)

A	_____	D	_____
B	_____	F	_____
C	_____		

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	I trust God in my difficult circumstances instead of trying to keep up the appearance before others that I am self-sufficient.	
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.	I am quick to ask for forgiveness from God and others when I am wrong or when there is conflict in one of my relationships.	
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.	I am gentle and balanced in my interactions with others, not trying to control my relationships through pretending to be strong or weak.	
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.	I have a vibrant daily relationship with God that is just as real when I am alone as it appears to be when I am with other Christians.	
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.	I am quick to grant forgiveness and a second chance to those who have sinned against God, against me or against my loved ones.	
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.	I have no secret sins or hidden motives in my heart; I am exactly the same in my inner world as I appear to others on the outside.	
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.	I always speak positively about others and about my church; I always try to defuse an explosive situation rather than adding fire to it.	
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	I don't get defensive when someone accuses me falsely or when they deliberately hurt me; I don't have to tell my side of the story.	
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.	I never lose my smile or positive attitude when things go wrong; I never lessen my worship or my church involvement when I'm upset.	

GET REAL IN HOW YOU LIVE

Matthew 5:13 (KJV) Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

In what ways does SALT have influence?

Matthew 5:14-16 (KJV) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

In what ways does LIGHT have influence?

GET REAL IN WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Matthew 5:17-20 (KJV) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19 (MSG) Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom.

SPEECH

- **Matthew 5:21 quotes the 6th commandment (Exodus 20:13) but with a Pharisaic addition ("judgment")**

Matthew 5:21-26 (MSG) You're familiar with the command to the ancients, 'Do not murder.' I'm telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother 'idiot!' and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell 'stupid!' at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. **The simple moral fact is that words kill.** This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and **make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.** Or say you're out on the street and an old enemy accosts you. Don't lose a minute. Make the first move; make things right with him. After all, if you leave the first move to him, knowing his track record, you're likely to end up in court, maybe even jail. If that happens, you won't get out without a stiff fine.

PURITY

- **Matthew 5:27 quotes the 7th commandment (Exodus 20:14)**

Matthew 5:27-30 (MSG) You know the next commandment pretty well, too: 'Don't go to bed with another's spouse.' But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. **Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body.** Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt. Let's not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here's what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile. And you have to chop off your right hand the moment you notice it raised threateningly. Better a bloody stump than your entire being discarded for good in the dump.

SELFISHNESS

- **Matthew 5:31 quotes Deuteronomy 24:1 incompletely, with the most important clause ("uncleanness") missing**

Matthew 5:31-32 (MSG) Remember the Scripture that says, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him do it legally, giving her divorce papers and her legal rights'? **Too many of you are using that as a cover for selfishness and whim, pretending to be righteous just because you are 'legal.'** Please, no more pretending. If you divorce your wife, you're responsible for making her an adulteress (unless she has already made herself that by sexual promiscuity). And if you marry such a divorced adulteress, you're automatically an adulterer yourself. You can't use legal cover to mask a moral failure.