

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

I give little credence to after life experiences as most of them give details in heaven and of past family members that are un-Biblical. By un-Biblical I mean that God tells us not to attempt to speak to the dead. My sense is that those encounters are likely demons and not your lost loved one. With that said I came across an account by a Muslim boy who said he died and saw Jesus. The reason I am showing you this is the extraordinary disparity of what this young boy grew up in and now what he is saying. I listened carefully as the comments are directly and predominately about Jesus and I could not find a non-Biblical reference other than the things used to describe what the boy was shown. Those things like a tree, a boat etc. are not scriptural but they coincide with what Jesus said using other items to describe what we would consider Spiritual matters. We can watch this and then discuss any concerns or thoughts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=witaedleMlw>

On to our Bible Study.

Matthew 4 concludes with Jesus beginning His public ministry throughout Galilee and the surrounding region, reaching as far as Syria. He healed the sick, taught the people often in parables, and

drew great multitudes who came to hear Him and receive His help.

Jesus taught in parables to bring out deep truths about the Law and the Prophets and the coming New Covenant. It also fulfilled prophecy: Matthew

Matthew 13: 34All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:35That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 5 then opens with one of Jesus' most well-known teachings: the Sermon on the Mount also called the "Beatitudes". This teaching begins, where Jesus describes the blessed character and hope of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5

The Sermon on the Mount

1And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Through Isaiah, God spoke of His coming Son—the Messiah, Jesus—and revealed the purpose of His mission.

Isaiah 42: 6 “I, the LORD, have called you
for a righteous purpose,
and I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and appoint you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring prisoners out of the dungeon
and those sitting in darkness
out from the prison house.

8 I am the LORD;
that is My name!
I will not yield My glory to another
or My praise to idols.
9 Behold, the former things have happened,
and now I declare new things.
Before they spring forth
I proclaim them to you.”

Enlight of the Redeemer, this passage stands as His proclamation to all who love Him and believe in Him.

(Psalm 1:1-6; Luke 6:20-23)

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God has always sought those who have a humble and contrite heart. Those are who are “poor in spirit”.

Isaiah 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

4Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

When we as Believers are troubled by loss of loved ones, our response is to mourn. It is something God fully understands and has created that response in us. God says this in Psalms 116:15 about how He reacts to the death of one of His own.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

5Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Meekness Is Not Weakness

Would anyone consider Jesus weak? Absolutely not. Jesus was never weak; He walked in meekness and humility while fully knowing who He was—and who He still is today: the Creator of the universe. Nothing could make Him weak. His meekness was strength under perfect control.

Joint Heirs with Christ

Jesus is the rightful owner of the whole universe, including the earth. In His Grace, He has chosen to share His inheritance with those who love Him. Because believers are joint heirs with Christ, they will also share in the inheritance He has promised.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

6Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

One sign of being a believer is a deep hunger and thirst for God's Word. As we grow in our understanding of Scripture, we begin to see what righteousness is, why we need it in our lives, and how it calls us to become more like Jesus every day.

Righteousness Credited to the Believer

However, righteousness has already been imputed to us. Imputed means that Christ's righteousness was credited to each believer at the moment of surrender and faith. Therefore, our walk in this life is not an effort to become righteous before God; by the blood of the Lamb, believers already stand righteous in Him. Our walk is one of Sanctification setting ourselves aside unto Holiness.

Learning to walk in OBEDIENCE to God's Word.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Our Walk of Sanctification

Our daily walk is one of sanctification, which means being set apart unto holiness. As believers, we grow in righteousness not to

earn our standing before God, but because we already belong to Christ.

1 Peter 1;13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

7Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Mercy and Grace

To understand this Beatitude more clearly, it helps to distinguish between God's mercy and God's grace.

God's mercy withholds what we deserve—death and eternal separation from Him. God's grace gives what we could never earn—eternal life with Him through Jesus Christ.

Mercy Toward Others

Because God has extended mercy to us, we are called to show mercy to others. Instead of responding with hatred, anger, or resentment, believers are to forgive, love their enemies, and reflect the mercy they have received from God. One of the most difficult things to learn to walk in is simple forgiveness. We can forgive another who has not repented. In that forgiveness our

hearts are healed and helped, that forgiveness does nothing for the one who refuses to repent. On the other hand when we have been wronged and someone repents and asks for forgiveness and we refuse; our hearts are hurt and theirs is healed. If we forgive those who repent both our hearts are healed.

The Call to Forgive

We may be tempted to say that forgiving others is difficult. Yet we should remember how hard it was for God to allow His Son to die for us on the cross for a world of lost sinners. Enlight of the sacrifice Jesus our hardships are small by comparison.

Forgiveness is not a matter of personal strength alone; it is an act of obedience to the Holy Spirit's direction.

8Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

God refers to the heart of man in different ways. When He is talking about "pure in heart", this according to Bereans Study Bible commentary.

"Purity of heart implies a single-minded devotion to God, free from hypocrisy or ulterior motives."

Psalms 24:

1{A Psalm of David.} The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

God also tells us He knows every thought of man, being able to divide the thoughts of man to his very core.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Here again, how can we have a pure heart, if God says that the thoughts of man are constantly wicked? How can we have a pure heart as God is asking? Our plea to God is to create in us a clean heart. King David plead that plea to God when he was found out about Bathsheba.

Psalms 51:1 A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.} Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3*For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*

4*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

5*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

6*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

7*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

8*Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*

9*Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

10*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

11*Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

12*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

13*Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

Like David, our pleas are answered by God. God declares that he removes our sin from us if we are earnest in our repentance.

David does make the statement that

“3For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”

Our sins are ever before us, we have a difficult time of forgetting out sins and Satan is more than happy to help us remember them. Understand that when we continually bring up our sins before God that we have already repented of God's response is: What sin are you speaking of my child?

Psalms 103: 8The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

18To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

James 4:7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. **9**Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. **10**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Happy Birthday Sandy

July 19, 2026

We are studying the beatitudes, a road map that Jesus gave to Believers to follow as we walk out our lives on earth as Believers in Jesus Christ. The path is straight but it is narrow, stress-free if you stay on the path.

9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

The Calling of Peacemakers

Peacemaking is not a comment directed only toward law enforcement and military; it is a calling given to all believers. As followers of Christ, we are to seek peace with those we encounter, especially with those who are willing to pursue peace.

Peace with Discernment

We know that there is evil in the world, so at the same time, not everyone desires peace. Some may resist it, and others may deal treacherously with believers. For this reason, believers must test the spirit and seek wisdom from God when pursuing peace with others, whether they are unbelievers or those who claim to be believers. Discernment helps reveal the true intent of those with whom we seek peace.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Jesus explains discernment to the detriment of those who are fake believers, those who believe only in their heads and never completely believing in their hearts. Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21 21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwVnwHQrzxY>

From Berean Study Bible Commentary

therefore be as shrewd as snakes

The call to be shrewd as snakes emphasizes the need for wisdom and discernment. In ancient Near Eastern culture, snakes were often associated with craftiness and intelligence, as seen in [Genesis 3:1](#), where the serpent is described as more cunning than any other beast. This shrewdness is not about deceit but about being wise and strategic in navigating a hostile environment. The disciples are encouraged to be prudent and thoughtful in their actions, avoiding unnecessary conflict while remaining faithful to their mission.

and as innocent as doves.

In contrast to the shrewdness of snakes, the innocence of doves represents purity and harmlessness. Doves were considered symbols of peace and purity in biblical times, often used in sacrificial offerings ([Leviticus 1:14](#)). This dual call to be both shrewd and innocent reflects the balance required in the Christian life: to be wise in dealing with the world while maintaining a pure heart and intentions. The innocence of doves aligns with the teachings of Jesus on purity of heart ([Matthew 5:8](#)) and the call to live blamelessly ([Philippians 2:15](#)). This balance is essential for the disciples as they carry out their mission in a world that is both dangerous and in need of the Gospel.

I can find nothing in the Bible that God intends to have His followers slaughtered except for the Old Testament as a punishment for rebelling against God, wherein God would save a “remanent”.

In the New Covenant we are given the task of taking the Good News to the world. We are not told to violently overcome the

world but to with Truth, Love and Humbleness share the Good News.

Islam is of the exact opposite nature; they are told to take the world by force for Allah. So, in this entire context, who do you suppose is represented by Good News, as opposed to Allah the god of Islam?

Prudence is the watch word for Believers. Be aware of all that is evil and be prepared.

Children of God and Spiritual Discernment

A true peacemaker is called a child of God, reflecting the close relationship believers have with their Father in heaven. God has extended grace, mercy, and salvation to all, yet not everyone accepts this free gift. Some reject it, and others remain hostile toward God and His followers. For this reason, believers must test the spirits and seek discernment before assuming that every message, motive, or influence is from God.

1 John 4: 1Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have

heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Persecution for Righteousness

Throughout the world, believers often face hostility because they belong to Christ and stand upon His Word. Those who reject the Lord may also reject, mock, or persecute those who follow Him. Jesus makes clear that suffering for righteousness' sake is not forgotten by God; those who endure such persecution belong to the kingdom of heaven.

God's Righteous Justice

Vengeance belongs to the Lord. He will repay evil according to His perfect wisdom, justice, and timing. Believers are therefore called to trust Him rather than seek revenge for themselves. That does not mean willingly become a victim.

Hope for the Faithful

Believers who suffer or are martyred for the name of Jesus are received into glory with Christ. God sees the suffering of His

people, remembering those who are persecuted for His name, and He will judge evil with perfect righteousness. Nothing done against His own is hidden from Him.

11Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12**Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Rejoicing in Heavenly Reward

Those who stand firmly with God for Christ's sake are blessed and can rejoice, even when they are reviled or persecuted. Their faithfulness is seen by God, and their reward is in heaven. Just as the prophets were persecuted before them, faithful believers who suffer for Christ will one day join them in heavenly rejoicing.

Salt and Light **(*Philippians 2:12-18*)**

13Ye 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.

Salt that loses its primary function and flavor becomes of little use and is eventually thrown away. This is an allegory pointing out the need for Believers to be strong and bold in their testimony. To do otherwise would become like salt that has lost its flavor; useless

to the kingdom. Walk the narrow path of righteousness out of our Love for Jesus.

A Warning for Believers

In the same way, a believer who quenches the Holy Spirit becomes ineffective in spreading the Word of God. When the Spirit is no longer allowed to work through that believer, his or her witness loses its power.

Can a Believer lose their salvation? I think not, but one can certainly become a useless vessel in God's Kingdom. Only God knows the outcome of such a person. If you don't want to walk in fear then walk on the righteous narrow path of Jesus.

*Hebrews 10: **31**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

14Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. **15**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. **16**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Again, Jesus uses a metaphor to help man understand how we got to where we are. And how He, Jesus would change the Spiritual darkness to Spiritual Light. A light that lights the path of righteousness of Jesus.

From the fall of man with Adam, darkness entered the world. This darkness was a spiritual darkness. But the opposite of that spiritual darkness was “LIGHT”. It was the Spiritual Light that Jesus brought with Him to the world.

The sun was shining even as it is today, but there was a spiritual problem brought about by the original sin. When Adam and Eve defied God and ate of the forbidden tree, that was the Original Sin. That sin did several things. It allow Spiritual darkness to enter the world, and it transferred in a Spiritual sense the title deed of the earth to Satan.

How would man overcome this Spiritual darkness in a world ruled by Satan? How would the title deed to the earth be returned to its creator?

John 8: 12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

When Believers follow Jesus, we walk in the light not in darkness. We walk the straight path in peace with Jesus. If we fall, repent, get back up and on the righteous path of Christ.

Jesus Fulfills the Law

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

God created the Law for one primary purpose. To show mankind how far short of the Glory of God man had fallen to. The Law was a guide that pointed to Righteousness and ultimately to Jesus. Jesus did not destroy or end the Law; the Law is still the Law if you chose to live under it as the practicing Jews do today.

The New Covenant brought to mankind God's Grace, not to remove the Law but to give an alternate certainty; if you could live by Grace instead of living under the Law, what would you chose? It is available to all mankind including the Jewish Nation of Israel.

Matthew 7:13 13Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

18For 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.

For the Law to be fulfilled three conditions had to be met. The Law was fulfilled by Christ and no part of the Law passed before Jesus came as that Sacrificial Lamb the Prophets and Law declared.

- A pure sinless sacrifice had to come.
- That pure sacrifice had to take upon it the sins of the world
- Establishment of the New Covenant having fulfilled the Law

That solitary sinless life would be killed for the sins of man would rise up from death to everlasting life. That Sacrifice and the bearer of the New Covenant was Jesus the Messiah.

The Law in its original form still exists today and each person can chose to be under the Law or under Grace.

19Whosoever 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.

The Law Still Points to Righteousness

Even under grace, God's Law still points us toward righteousness and teaches us how we are to live. This does not refer to laws created by men, but to the commands given by God. The Ten Commandments remain a living and active part of every Christian's life when we walk in obedience to Him.

Teaching and Walking in Obedience

Jesus warns that those who teach otherwise will "be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." By contrast, those who both teach and walk in the ordinances of God after being saved will be called "great in the kingdom of heaven." Such obedience is not about earning salvation; it is about walking in righteousness, glorifying God, and aligning our lives with Jesus.

20For 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.

Jesus Speaking Before the New Covenant

It is important to remember that Jesus—the Creator God—was speaking to His disciples, and by extension to us, before His crucifixion, death, and resurrection brought in the New Covenant.

The Standard of the Law

The Jewish religious leaders were known for their strict adherence to the Law. They were expected to serve as examples for the people, showing what it meant to walk according to the Law. In this passage, Jesus was speaking of righteousness under the Law and explaining what would be required to enter the kingdom of heaven by that standard.

Why Grace Was Needed

Jesus was showing that a person would have to surpass even the scribes and Pharisees in righteousness to enter the kingdom under the Law. Yet this was impossible, because no one could fully keep or fulfill the Law—not even the religious leaders, no matter how earnestly they tried. This truth points forward to the need for the New Covenant, which Jesus would establish through His sacrifice and resurrection.

Anger and Reconciliation *(Luke 12:57-59)*

21Ye 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:

The word in the Greek that Jesus used here according to Strong's Concordance; Word Helps for "kill".

5407 *phoneúō* (from **5408** */phónos*, "murder, homicide") – to murder, commit intentional (unjustified) homicide.

The Law was quite clear on what constituted murder, how a person was accused and convicted and the sentence for such behavior. Jesus is now going to expound on this idea of murder in a Spiritual sense.

Jesus being the Light of the World is going to put a light on the spiritual relationship between love and hate of another human being. As a side note that would include the killing of an unborn child.

22But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his
brother without a cause shall be in danger of the
judgment:

Anger Without Cause

Jesus' words must be read carefully. He does not merely address anger in general; He specifically warns against being angry with a

brother “without a cause.” This distinction is important because Jesus is showing that sinful anger begins in the heart and can place a person in danger of judgment.

Anger as a Heart Condition

In this passage, Jesus connects anger with the commandment against killing by moving the issue from outward action to inward condition. Murder begins with hatred, resentment, and anger that are allowed to rule the heart. The danger is not simply feeling anger, but allowing anger to control our thoughts, words, and actions.

The Meaning of “Without a Cause”

The phrase “without a cause” is important to understanding this verse. Strong’s Concordance identifies the Greek word as meaning “idly,” “without reason,” “without effect,” or “in vain.” In other words, Jesus is warning against anger that is unjustified, careless, empty, or rooted in the wrong spirit.

Responding to Anger Righteously

Anger may arise for a valid reason, and that alone does not necessarily make it sinful. The real danger lies in how we respond to that anger. If anger is handled wrongly, it can lead us into sin, damage relationships, and move us away from God’s desire that we love one another.

The Spiritual Danger

Jesus is showing that anger is spiritually dangerous when it violates God's command to love. Anger without cause places the heart in danger of judgment because it moves a person toward contempt, accusation, and hatred rather than mercy, humility, and reconciliation.

The Warning Against "Raca"

The next part of the verse says, "Whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council."

"Raca" is an Aramaic term of contempt, carrying the idea that someone is emptyheaded, worthless, or beneath respect. Such an insult was serious enough to be brought before the council, because it treated another person with contempt rather than love.

July 26, 2026

The Warning Against Calling Someone a Fool

The final part of the verse says, "Whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

To call someone a "fool" in this sense was more than an insult. It suggested moral or spiritual corruption and placed a serious judgment upon another person. Such an accusation reaches into

an area that belongs to God alone, because only God fully knows the heart, thoughts, and spiritual condition of a person.

Speaking with Love and Reverence

Jesus' warning, calls believers to speak with love, humility, and respect. To accuse a brother with contempt puts the accuser in a dangerous spiritual position. Psalm 14:1 connects the term "fool" with the person who says in his heart, "There is no God," showing the seriousness of such a charge.

***Psalms 14:1 The fool says in his heart,
"There is no God."***

23Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; **24**Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

***Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for
Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***

Reconciliation Before Worship

Under the Covenant of the Law, God established a visible process in which a person brought a gift to the altar. This act taught that sin carries a cost to the sinner and that seeking forgiveness requires confession through a humble heart before

God. The Holy Spirit convicts us and we as Believers cannot rest until we repent to God and ask His forgiveness.

All sin is ultimately against God. Yet sin also affects our relationships with family, friends, and acquaintances. For that reason, Jesus teaches that reconciliation should not be delayed. If we know that someone has something against us, we should seek peace before continuing in worship.

Under the New Covenant, forgiveness is received through Christ, and Believers are called to reflect that forgiveness toward others. God desires His people to pursue peace wherever possible, living with kindness, tenderness, and a forgiving spirit.

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

25Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. **26**Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

In this context it refers a legal issue with someone. As a matter of fact, our civil legal system requests the parties to meet before a trial begins to see if reconciliation can take place before a legal opinion is determined. Seeking reconciliation is difficult more due to our egos and anger than anything else. It is a Godly thing to do,

not to unilateral surrender but to seek a workable agreement that resolves the disagreement.

Adultery *(Leviticus 18:1-30)*

27Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time,
Thou shalt not commit adultery: **28**But I say unto you,
That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her
hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

We have spoken many times about the heart. The heart is talked about by God many times. He tells us this:

*Mark 7: **20**And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. **21**For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, **22**Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: **23**All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The Condition of the Human Heart

From nearly the beginning of the creation of man, God has endured the evil nature of man's heart. His first worldwide judgment against this corruption was the flood, through which He destroyed living creatures while preserving only a faithful remnant. The question remains: has the heart of man truly

changed? Scripture warns that in the end times; this same condition will again be evident.

God's Order for Relationships

In God's design, one-to-one relationships are of greatest importance. Marriage was established by God and stands immediately beneath our relationship with Him. A proper order of love and devotion may be understood this way:

- God
- Spouse
- Family
- Friends
- Country and other responsibilities

The Church is not left out of this order; it is included within our relationship with God. This does not refer to earthly church buildings, but to the Church Jesus built, made up of only Believers.

Satan's Attack on Relationships

Because these relationships are so important, Satan seeks to attack them—especially our relationship with God, our spouse, our family, and our friends. That is why Jesus teaches that adultery can be committed in the heart and is spiritually serious, even before any outward act occurs. It is a forgivable sin, but it must be confessed and repented of before God.

29And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

In Matthew's time, the right eye was considered dominant, in other words like a window into the soul, spiritually meaning that what we choose to look at can open the door to sin.

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

The Seriousness of Sin

Jesus uses vivid language to show how serious sin is and how quickly it can enter the heart through what we allow ourselves to see and hear. As the children's song reminds us, "Be careful little eyes what you see, be careful little ears what you hear."

30And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

The Seriousness of Sin and the Cost of Discipleship

Like the eye, the hand is used as a metaphor to draw the believer's attention to the seriousness of sin. Jesus uses parts of the body to show that sin must be dealt with decisively, rather than allowed to rule the heart or life.

The Danger of Ignoring Sin

Jesus' point is that failing to deal with sin as God commands can place a person in grave spiritual danger. So, what is God's commandment to deal with sin. Confession and turning from repeating it.

Acts 17: 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

The warning is against preferring the world and its desires over God and what He offers. The question is whether we will deny ourselves, follow Christ, and value His kingdom above the temporary things of this world.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Divorce

(Deuteronomy 24:1-5; Luke 16:18-18)

31It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: **32**But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

There are parts of the Bible that are hard to hear and even harder to deal with and rectify if need be. God established marriage and put it directly below our love and loyalty to Him. In other words, as to a hierarchy of our love and devotion would be something like this.

God

Spouse, Family

Fellow Believers

County etc.

Mark 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

Divorce Under the Law

Many Christian believers have experienced divorce and remarriage. God's Law established the seriousness and sacredness of marriage, while also permitting divorce under certain conditions. Under the Law, a man could give his wife a bill of divorcement. Over time, however, this practice became increasingly trivial, with some men seeking divorce for the slightest perceived offense—or for no meaningful reason at all. Because of this abuse, limits and conditions were needed to restrain how divorce was handled.

Jesus' Standard for Divorce

Jesus raised the standard by which divorce should be understood. He taught that divorce was permitted only in the case of adultery. If the offended spouse chose reconciliation, the marriage could remain intact. If reconciliation did not take place, the one who committed adultery was to remain unmarried. The offended spouse could remarry, though God's desire remains reconciliation wherever possible.

Grace, Repentance, and Remarriage

What, then, if a divorce occurs under civil law—for example, under U.S. law—without adultery? According to Jesus' teaching, remarriage in that circumstance would not be permitted. Yet if a person has sinned through remarriage, that sin is not beyond the reach of Christ's forgiveness. The blood of Christ is sufficient, and forgiveness is available when there is true repentance.

(Numbers 30:1-16)

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

According to Strong's Concordance the Greek and Hebrew

“Transliteration: *epiorkeó*

Pronunciation: *ep-ee-or-KEH-o*

Phonetic Spelling: *(ep-ee-or-keh'-o)*

KJV: forswear self

NASB: make false vows

Word Origin: [from G1965 (ἐπίορκος - perjurers)]

1. to commit perjury”

Let Your Word Be True

Jesus addresses the practice of swearing oaths or making ironclad commitments to prove sincerity. Instead, He teaches that our words should be simple, honest, and dependable: our “yes” should mean yes, and our “no” should mean no.

Invoking an outside authority does not make a dishonest promise trustworthy. If a person does not intend to keep his word, no oath can change that. God’s people should therefore speak with integrity, letting truthfulness—not sworn promises—establish their credibility.

34But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: **35**Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. **36**Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. **37**But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Simply mean what you say.

Love Your Enemies

(Leviticus 24:17-23; Luke 6:27-36)

38Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Exodus 21: 22If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

Clarifying the Meaning of “Mischief”

For clarity, the word “mischief” carries the meaning of “harm.”

That harm may vary in degree and severity.

If the harm results in the death of the unborn child, the continuation of the passage appears to treat it as a matter of life for life. If either the mother or the child dies, the offender faces the same consequence: “And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life.”

23And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, 24Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Minor Offenses and Restraint

In the following verses, Jesus is not canceling the Law’s requirements concerning serious harm done to another person. Rather, He is addressing lesser offenses—whether physical, personal, or financial—and teaching believers how to respond without retaliation.

The examples He gives, such as being slapped or sued, point to minor injuries or insults rather than severe injury or death. In such cases, believers are called to respond with restraint, humility, and a willingness to absorb the offense rather than seek personal revenge.

A Serious Note on the Loss of Life

As a side note, when an outside force causes the death of a pregnant woman or her unborn child, the Law presents the matter with great seriousness: life for life. God determined through the law that the unborn child is a person and the death of that unborn child carries equal weight as the death of a fully mature person.

My understanding is that God will hold accountable both the abortionist and the woman who willingly surrenders her child to abortion. Yet there is one merciful exception: repentance.

39But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40**And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also. **41**And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. **42**Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Responding Differently Than the World

These are hard sayings from Jesus because they confront our sinful nature. As flawed people, we often put ourselves first and give little thought to how our actions affect others.

Christians are called to respond differently from the world. Rather than striking back or seeking personal revenge, believers are to absorb the wrong done to them and trust God to bring whatever justice He sees fit.

43Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Jesus does not say that precept is written in the law, He simply says “it hath been said”. He does not site who or what circumstances it was said. The most accurate rendition of the idea is found in Leviticus.

Leviticus 19: 17Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. 18Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Vengeance Belongs to God

From the giving of the Law, God has made clear that judgment and vengeance belong to Him, not to us. This does not mean God expected His prophets, judges, or people to stand idly by while

His people were slaughtered. Nor does it mean believers today are called to allow themselves or their families to be destroyed without defense.

Scripture teaches that believers have a responsibility to care for and protect their households. Failing to provide for one's own family—including their defense and protection—places a believer in a position worse than that of an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5: 7And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

We as Believers are told to pray for our enemies and for those who persecute you.

Strong's Concordance defines this term "persecute" as:

Pronunciation: dee-o'-ko

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-o'-ko)

KJV: ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute(-ion), press forward

NASB: persecuted, persecute, persecuting, pursue, press, pursuing, persecutor

Word Origin: [a prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb dio "to flee"]

1. to pursue
2. (by implication) to persecute
{literally or figuratively}

This idea of “persecute” is not described as unto death. It is causing one to flee from the presence of the pursuer. In other words, we try to withdraw from the aggressor as best we can. God tells us to be at peace with all men as best we can.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

God's Common Blessings and Eternal Choice

It may seem like a contradiction that God blesses both those who do evil and those who love Him. Yet in this life, God sends many blessings to all people, showing His patience, mercy, and goodness.

The difference is seen in the end and in eternity. Those who reject God will be separated from Him in Hell, also called the Lake of Fire. Those who love, believe, and trust Him will be with Him forever in Heaven. The blessings are offered to all, but each person must choose whether to receive Him. Simply a matter of choice!

46For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **47**And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so? **48**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

God's goal for Believers is perfect righteousness. As you know we are already declared righteous before God through the Blood of the Lamb. The challenge to us as Believers is the rest of our time here on earth. God wants us to navigate through life becoming more righteous each day. Walking in the Light of His Word, His Son our Savior Jesus the Messiah.

One Solitary Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydUnH3UQILM>

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