

**Celebration of First Family outing with 74 people and families that were able to have a movie day last week with “David” (Riverstone)**

**Our mortgage balance on the church this last month was lowered to \$194K and **in December was lowered again to \$120K** at the end of our FIRST YEAR in this building!!!!!!**

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**The Sermon on the Mount is meant to *undo “self-righteousness”***  
**I’ve heard this response a thousand times, when I ask an unbeliever if they are going to heaven....and if so, why they think so..... ☺**

“Well I’m really NOT a bad person”

“Or I haven’t murdered anyone”....And this is all **SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

**TRANSLATION:** I’m a good person in my own eyes, ***and I’m making the rules here, so I don’t care if God says I’m a sinner headed for hell ☺***

**Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven!**

**Jesus NOW goes deeper in His Sermon on the Mount teaching, by RAISING, NOT LOWERING THE BAR OF THE LAW to show that every single person on the face of the earth is UN-Righteous before a PERFECT/HOLY GOD!....**

The LAW has always been much more than just the letter of the Law, it has always been about the HEART, thoughts and motives of the Law, NOT JUST ACTIONS!!

**This is important, because the Pharisee’s were teaching** that people could KEEP THE LAW if you were careful with your actions...

**THIS TYPE OF TEACHING IS STILL TAUGHT TODAY....!!!!!!**

“You can be upset with someone, AND you are OK as long as you don’t kill them ☺

You can hate your enemies (Gentiles from the Pharisees), no harm, no foul, *they are dogs anyway*

You can lust after anyone, you just can’t commit the act of adultery

**Jesus begins this portion of His teaching SIX TIMES with the phrase, "You have heard it said"** (From the Old Testament Law itself and/or from the Jewish religious leaders who bragged about their SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.....***which was NO RIGHTEOUSNESS before our perfect holy God...***

**Rom. 3:9-10** *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one..."* From Isaiah OT

**BACKGROUND.....PREVIOUSLY FROM LAST WEEK PASTOR CRAIG GAVE US THE "KEY" VERSE THAT WILL UNLOCK JESUS WHOLE SERMON....**

**Matt. 5:17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**

**The verses we have just read, presents the heart of Jesus' message that will follow for weeks to come on various topics, as we unpack the prolific phrase, "You have heard it said, but I tell you"!**

**The responsibility of the Jewish audience was NOW made clear.**

The righteousness the Israelites were currently seeking to get into heaven as taught by the Pharisees, would NEVER get them there

**THAT WAS TRUE THEN.....AND ITS STILL TRUE NOW.....!!!!!!**

**"AFTER" the institution of the NEW COVENANT OF GRACE, Paul would write..**

**(Rom 10:4) "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness"**

**(Rom 6:14) "You are not under law but under grace"**

**The righteousness God demands, is NOT merely external; BUT was a true inner righteousness based on *faith* in God's Word**

**Rom. 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction** (Whether Jew or Gentile, it is **FAITH ALONE**)

**This will be clear from what follows.**

**"You have heard that it was said",** weather by the Pharisees and Scribes or by Moses Himself!!!!!!

**"But I tell you". These words make it clear that Jesus was presenting**

1. **Clearer meaning and a HIGHER standard** that made obedience to the law even *MORE IMPOSSIBLE*, apart from Christ righteousness and the H/S
2. **He alone being perfectly God and perfectly human could keep the Law on our account** and then place us under a **NEW COVENANT of GRACE**
3. **Jesus ALONE as the *giver* of the Law and the *keeper* of the Law had the Authority to set the Law aside "AFTER" HE FULLFILLED IT...EVEN DOWN TO THE JOT AND TITTLE....!!!**

**AS WE MOVE FORWARD, EVERY INTERPRETATION *HINGES* ON VERSE 20**

**Matt. 5:20 "For I say to you that *unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.***

Every time we read, "You have heard it said, but I tell you"...Will expose a *higher* standard of the Law that drives us to our Savior begging for forgiveness because of our hopelessness of any chance of keeping the Law....It is here we find the grace of God speaking to us through the mouth of Jesus... *"You are right YOU CAN'T keep the Law PERFECTLY, but I did!!!...AND I DID IT FOR YOU!!!....therefore put on my righteousness, because under my GRACE you are FREE from the curse of the Law.....AND....I have NOW given you the power to FOLLOW AFTER ME when you take up your own cross as MY DISCIPLES!!!!!! ☺*

**AND BTW...."ENJOY THE *FREE* GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE I PURCHASED FOR YOU, BY MY GRACE, ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY!**

**POINT:** *Don't get frustrated and give up hope when you fall short of Jesus teaching, BECAUSE YOU and I are under the power of God's Grace AND it is our ONLY HOPE of obedience to Christ, through the H/S!*

**Paul explains it this way:** “Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God” **(Romans 3:19)**.

**THIS IS WHY, Jesus “fulfillment of the LAW was necessary, BEFORE the new Covenant of Grace would be in effect...** JESUS FULFILLED the Law so that we would be set free from the curse of the Law, which is judgment and condemnation. ROMANS 8:1

**The Sermon on the Mount shuts up EVERY mouth** as it drives out “self-confidence”, and forces us to see our desperate need for a Savior. The Law was never meant to be our path to righteousness; it was meant to prove our guilt and point us to **“Christ righteousness.”**

**Romans 10:4 declares:** “Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in Him are **made right** with God.”

### **Here's Why It Matters**

**When preachers water down the Sermon on the Mount into “practical Christian living tips,” they unintentionally shrink grace. They make the Law look achievable, when Jesus meant for it to look impossible.** And if the Law looks possible, Grace looks small. **But when the Law looks impossible, Grace looks colossal!!!!!!**

### **The Takeaway...**

**Perfection is required TO PLEASE GOD.** The Law proves you'll never get there, AS Grace declares: **“RELAX, You're already there...in JESUS.”**

**LET'S LOOK AT OUR FIRST, “YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID” Lesson from Jesus**  
**Matt. 5:21 “You have heard** that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’  
**22 “But I say to you** that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-

*nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.*

**HERE'S MY POINT:** We are ALL murderers!!! Don't parse words with Jesus teaching!

**I've heard it taught,** “Hate the sin, but love the sinner”, **therefore, I CAN KEEP THE LAW of NO MURDER,** **but let's stop kidding ourselves...**

The LETTER of the Law does say, we are NOT to murder another human being, but Jesus RAISES the BAR even higher!!!!

**JESUS SAYS, “IF YOU EVEN GET ANGRY WITH YOUR BROTHER, YOU ARE A MURDERER!”** If you devalue your brother, perhaps by gossiping to another in how your brother is “good for nothing” **YOU ARE A MURDERER! AND, if you even call your brother a fool, you deserve to go to hell.....AS A MURDERER!!!!!!**

**POINT: JESUS has just set the HEART of the Law so high, you and I are ALL MURDERERS, WE ARE ALL LAW-BREAKERS!!!!** Hopelessly convicted and guilty

**Don't Miss This: YOU AND I CAN'T KEEP THE LAW, BUT JESUS DID it for us!**

Jesus honestly Loved those who truly *hated* Him and *those who sought and even carried out His death*...including those who stood underneath His feet and had just tortured Him, and those who nailed His hands and feet to a cross! IN OTHER WORDS, Jesus taught us the difference between Love and Hate...

**JESUS “ALONE” KEPT THE LAW FOR EACH OF US.....PERFECTLY!!!!!!**

**HIS PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO FATHER GOD, is the ONLY means for ANYONE to have a personal relationship with our living, holy, righteous God!**

**John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

**17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.** **18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** **19 “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were**

evil. <sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

**NOW THAT THE PLAYING FIELD HAS BEEN LEVELED, JESUS GIVES ALL OF US MURDERERS/FOLLOWERS A CHALLENGE....AGAIN "ONLY" THROUGH THE GRACE THAT "HE" PROVIDES IN HIS "POWER" THROUGH THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT, GOD PLACES WITHIN EVERY BELIEVER...**

**THIS is what Kingdom Citizens ARE to act like, those who are Children of God**

**SO LOOK AT THE TEXT THAT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS...**

**It is a relationship mending, total reconciliation, ANTI-Hate "CURE"!**

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. <sup>25</sup> Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent."

AND how much money do you think you would make in a Roman Prison?

**So how long do you think you will be there paying back what you owe? ☺**

**POINT:** God chose to love YOU, while hating *your* sin....He willingly took it upon Himself to fix *YOUR* PROBLEM!!!!!! Jesus Christ took the *initiative* to come to YOU personally as a Peacemaker, the creator of all things and take the punishment DO TO YOU, and paid the price of your sin, which is death, **THIS IS WHY JESUS DIED HIMSELF IN YOUR PLACE!!!!....**AND then offers you forgiveness because we are ALL guilty of sin....AND THIS IS WHAT **GRACE Looks Like!!!!**

**FINALLY, HERE IS THE PUNCH LINE OF JESUS SERMON, IT'S WHERE WE ARE HEADED-**

**Matt: 5:48** *"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* We are Lost and Hopeless without Jesus, but with and IN HIM we are made perfect! AMEN?

**STORY:** Imagine walking into a courtroom—not because you were accused, but because everyone is required to appear. There's no jury. No defense table. No plea bargaining. Only a judge and a screen. The judge says, “Today, we are not judging your actions—only your thoughts.” Suddenly the screen lights up. Every angry thought you never spoke. Every lustful glance you brushed off as harmless. Every selfish motive behind a good deed. Every time love could've spoken but didn't. No explanations allowed. No “I didn't mean it that way.” No comparisons to people worse than you. The judge explains calmly: **“The standard is perfection. Anything less is guilt.”** The room is silent because everyone realizes the same thing: There is no exit. Trying harder won't erase what's already been shown. Promising to do better won't undo what's already revealed. That's the Law. The Law doesn't shout. It doesn't threaten. It just tells the truth—and the truth is enough to condemn. Then something unexpected happens. The judge steps down. He walks toward the screen and says, “I will take responsibility for everything you just saw.” Every charge is transferred. Every record is placed on Him. The screen goes dark. The judge returns to His seat—not as your judge, but as your Savior—and says: “You are free to go. Not because you met the standard... **but because I fulfilled it.”** That's grace. Grace doesn't lower the standard. *Grace meets the standard, for YOU!.*

**The Law says, “Pay what you owe.”** Grace says, “It's already paid.” And the door you thought didn't exist was never locked—it was waiting for grace to open it.