

THE
LIVING ROOM

SESSIONS

with
(Lf) livingfaith
Church

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH: MATTHEW 5:21-48

Matthew 4

Murder

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.²⁶Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'²⁸But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'³²But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths 33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.'³⁴But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Eye for Eye

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.⁴⁰And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.⁴¹If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax

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collectors doing that?47And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Highest Bar

Jesus's call to perfection can feel like He is setting us up for failure- Jesus already knows that we sin, so why would He set the bar for righteousness higher than we could ever reach? The truth is that God knows we aren't perfect- that's the reason we have a Savior! He calls us to high standards because we are called to be like Christ and because He gave us the greatest weapon to fight temptation: the Holy Spirit. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us as we reconcile our disagreements, escape lust, protect our marriages, keep our commitments, turn the other cheek, and love our enemies.

Reflection Points

1. Jesus says, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell." Is there anything in your life that is causing you to sin and needs to be thrown away?
2. Who are you struggling to love right now? What do you need to pray for them?
3. How are you going to use the Holy Spirit to actively fight against sin and temptation this week?

Prayer for Today:

Jesus, thank you for your Holy Spirit and for the way you protect me against sin and temptation. Please help me stop sinning in my relationships with others and help me love other people the way that you love them