

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**PROGRAM 7 (#912177)**

**WEEK 2 (912340)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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**SERIES: Sermon On The Mount**

**TITLE: Program 7 – The Heart’s Relationship To The Law**

### **TUESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Beloved, when your thoughts, when your emotions, when your behavior wants to go contrary to what God says and to who you are in Christ Jesus, what do you do? You need to listen to God. You need to know what His Words have to say. You need to know how to apply them to your life and that’s what this program is all about. I’m so thankful that you’ve joined me today.

#### **PART ONE**

You know it’s incredible to sit here on the Mount of Beatitudes and to have the privilege to teach you the Word of God where Jesus taught this very same message. I want you to open your Bible today to Matthew chapter 5. As we come to Matthew chapter 5, we’ve looked at the character of those that belong to the kingdom of heaven. We’ve looked at the conflict that comes because that character is so contrary to the world and in such sharp

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contrast to the world and so it brings a conflict. From that conflict however, comes a conduct. A conduct that is not determined by what's going on about us. Precious One, when your emotions want to run wild, when you're about to act like you shouldn't act, you need to remember what Jesus has to say. You need to remember that Christianity is a matter of the heart and it's a matter of keeping this mind under control, knowing truth and then living in the light of it. And letting these emotions, letting this passion come under the control of the blessed Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. Well, as Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 5 and He came to the conduct, He told them that their righteousness had to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees because if it didn't they couldn't enter into the kingdom of heaven. We need to understand that the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees was an external one. They were doing externally what the Law said. But the problem was, it was not in their hearts and Christianity is not just a matter of doing but it's a matter of the heart. There's always the lifestyle that shows what's in the heart. And so Jesus is going to take what they've heard in the Law and He's going to say to them you have heard but I say to you. They have heard with the hearing of their ears. They have heard about the external behavior but they haven't understood that it's a matter of the heart. And we need to understand it, Precious One, because as an individual, as a possessor of the kingdom of heaven, as salt, as light, you and I need to realize that the way that we live is absolutely critical to the times in which we are living. Now listen to me very carefully and as you listen I want you to watch for the word "reward," okay? Matthew chapter 5, verse 12 it says, "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." In other words He's saying when you're persecuted for My name's sake because you're living the right way I want you to rejoice and be glad and I want you to remember this. There is a reward awaiting you in heaven. All right now He comes down and in verse 20 He says I'm telling you that your righteousness must exceed the

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righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees otherwise you will not enter into heaven. So it's not a matter of reward now. It's a matter of entering into heaven and He's saying this is the righteousness that you must have. And then He says, (Matthew 5:21) "You have heard the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you...." Now you're going to find that pattern you have heard but I say to you all the way through Matthew chapter 5. He says, (Matthew 5:22) "...I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,'" worthless one, "shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say," 'you fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into fiery hell." Now what is He saying? He's saying I want you to understand that in your behavior you're not committing murder but in your heart you are and out of the heart a man speaks. And so you're not actually killing someone and putting them to death but you're taking this tongue and you're destroying these people because you don't have the right heart attitude. And what we need to understand is all men have been made in the image of God. And every life has value and every life has purpose. Now God even uses the evil to accomplish His purposes but He uses the good of course to show the world what it is like to belong to the kingdom of heaven. But you and I are not to sit here as a judge and say, "Listen, your life has no value. You're absolutely worthless." When God brought them into existence we're not to say that you are a fool. Now we can say the fool has said in his heart there is no God but we're not to say, "Listen, you are absolutely nothing." Why? Because God values man. So He tells us how we are to behave. What are we to do when we get angry with our brother? Well He goes on to say this. (Matthew 5:23) "If therefore you are presenting your offering, to God, at the altar, and you remember that your brother has something against you," He says I want you to, "leave your offering before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering." Now why is He

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saying this? Well, remember this is an entire message. Remember He has told them what their character is to be; also we are peacemakers. So if I'm a peacemaker I'm not a destroyer of other people. So as we look at this He's going to take us through a lot of the things from the commandments. Now not just the 10 Commandments but the commandments that He gave them after He gave the 10 on Mount Sinai. After He gave the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai then what He did was He extended that Law and He explained how is to be lived in detail. If you'll study Deuteronomy with us then you'll understand that. So let's go on to verse 25. He says, "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, in order that your opponent may not deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison." Now if He's saying make friends quickly with your opponent what character is He talking about? He's talking about being a peacemaker. In other words, you know just don't drag them into court. Just don't slander them. Stop and recognize that this is another human being. That you belong to the kingdom of heaven. That you're to manifest to the world the character of God. That you're the salt that stops the spread of corruption. That you're the light that dispels the darkness. And so in seeing this, Precious One, then you and I are to play the role of a peacemaker and make peace before you get to court. He says in verse 26 if you don't do that, "Truly I say to you, you shall not come out of there, until you have paid the last cent." In other words listen, if you're not going to obey God, if you're not going to be the salt you ought to be, the light you ought to be, then God is going to see that and you're not going to come out of court until you paid the last cent. Well, Jesus now takes us to another you have heard. This time it is, (Matthew 5:27) "You have heard that... 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman...." Now looks there is in the present tense. Everyone who keeps on looking at a woman "...to lust for her," in his heart, "has committed adultery with her...." In other words if you keep looking at a

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woman and you lust after her you're committing adultery with her in your heart. You may not do the physical act but in God's mind and in God's heart, it is as equal to the physical act for you to do it in your heart. Why? Because Christianity is not just a matter of externals but it's a matter of internal. God looks on the heart and we're to keep our heart with all diligence because eventually out of our heart come the issues of life. And this is why He goes on to say in this passage, (Matthew 5:29) "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better that one of the parts of your body perish, than your whole body be thrown into hell." What is He saying? He's saying anyone that commits a lifestyle of adultery, if that's your habit of life, you're going to hell. You've never been saved. And so He's saying whatever it takes, Precious One, to get you to get your heart and your mind under control you must do it. If it's a matter of your eyes pull it out. Now what is He saying? He's not literally telling us to pull our eye out of our body but He's saying go to whatever extreme is necessary to keep you from lusting after a woman in your heart. In Job 31:1 Job said I made a covenant with my eyes that I would not look at a woman. I would turn away. Some of you need to do that. Some of you need to get off the internet. Some of you need to cancel all your subscriptions. Some of you need to stay away from magazine racks. Why? Because it causes you to lust. He goes on to say this. (MATT.5:30) "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go to hell." In other words, listen, you have to have a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. You've got to learn how to keep under control. He goes on to say, (Matthew 5:31) "And it was said, 'Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce'." Now this is a law that you can find that was written in Deuteronomy chapter 24 but it was not permission to divorce but rather it was protection for the woman who was going to be divorced. The husband

that was going to put her away because she did something that did not please him. And what the scribes and the Pharisees had done with that law was they had taken that law and they had stretched it to say if she burns the toast, I can get rid of her. If she doesn't dress the way I want her to, I can get rid of her. I can just write her a certificate of divorce and He says oh no. And He wants them to understand His heart. In Malachi chapter 2 God says, "I hate divorce." (v. 16) I hate the putting away of your wives. That's a woman that you've made a covenant with and when you do that you are making your children vulnerable and you're not keeping them under that protection of a holy marriage. Well, I have more to tell you and I'll be right back to share that, in just a moment.

## **PART TWO**

Now he goes on to say you have heard that it was said, "Whoever divorces his wife let him give her a certificate of divorce"; "but I say to you whoever divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity," or immorality, "makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries her commits adultery." (Matthew 5:31-32 In other words there's only one thing that breaks that marriage covenant and that's when you sleep with another person and or when you commit adultery habitually with your eyes and you live this adulterous lifestyle so that in your mind or with your body you are sleeping with someone outside of marriage or someone that is not your mate. And if that's your habit of life and listen to me carefully. In our culture there are a multitude of people going to hell and they don't think that they are wrong or that they are in trouble but they don't understand the heart of God, they don't understand the Word of God. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers," God says, "I will judge." (Hebrews 13:4) When you commit adultery, you're breaking a covenant and it's the covenant of marriage and God is the administrator and the judge of every broken covenant. You just can't do it, Beloved, and get away with it

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and you need to understand that. Now, let's go on and I would love to tell you more but I have a book called A Marriage without Regrets that you can get and I have a study course called A Marriage without Regrets that covers everything. All right? He goes on to say, (Matthew 5:33) "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but you shall fulfill your vows to the LORD.'" And He says, (Matthew 5:34, 35 a) "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet..." How can you make a vow by heaven or make a vow by earth when you don't own the earth and when you don't own heaven? He says, (Matthew 5:35b) "...or by Jerusalem," the great city of the King. They say, "I'll swear by Jerusalem." Well you have nothing to do with Jerusalem. You can walk in and out of it but you have nothing to do with it's future or it's fate. And He goes on to say, (Matthew 5:36) "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black." Now He's talking about naturally. He's not talking about dyeing your hair. He says, (Matthew 5:37) "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is evil." What is He saying? You belong to the kingdom of God. You're a child of God. Your words are so important. So when you make a promise let your yes be yes. When you say no, let your no be no. Don't be double minded. He says be consistent. You don't need to make vows if you're going to live in a way that is pleasing to Me. Well He goes on to say, (Matthew 5:38-39) "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil;" whoever slaps you on one cheek, then simply turn the other cheek. He says, (Matthew 5:40-42) "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. And whoever shall force you to go one mile," go two miles. "Give to him who asks you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you." Now what is He saying here? Is He saying that you and I are to become doormats to all the people that are evil in the world? No, He says I

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want you to understand that Christianity is a matter of the heart. That when you're a child of God then it's not just the letter of the Law but it's the intent of the Law and as we look at this passage one of the things that I want you to see is that Jesus is not saying that there is not to be justice meted out. Now when we finish today you can look up Exodus chapter 21, verses 22 to 29 and there, Precious One, you can see that whenever there was a trespass against a man that the judgment was to be a fair judgment. In other words if somebody knocked out a tooth, you couldn't knock out all their teeth. If somebody hit you in the eye, you couldn't hit them in both eyes. He wanted to make sure that it was not like it is today. Because what happens today is we go to court and we sue them for everything that we can get. We take no individual responsibility. It is wrong to sue them if they have duly warned you on the product and told you that that product is dangerous. So He's talking about us living in a proper way. Being meek in this situation, being merciful in this situation. So that if somebody does do you damage, you don't go after everything that you can get. And that's so important for us to remember especially in our greedy, greedy culture today. All right? What is the intent of the Law? And the intent of the Law is love. Listen to what He goes on to say. In verse 43, (Matthew 5) "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'" Now this is what they heard but it wasn't true. And He says, (Matthew 5:44) "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." He says blessed are you when men will persecute you. He says pray for them, (Matthew 5:45a) "in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven." Now remember it says, (Matthew 5:9) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." So if you're a peacemaker you're not going to hate your enemy, you're going to try to win your enemy. So when someone comes along and slaps you on the face instead of slugging them back, you turn the other cheek. Why? Because you want to win them. You need to understand the intent of the Law. The intent of the Law was love. It



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was not hatred. It was to win people to God because God is love. And when the lawyer came to Jesus and asked Jesus, “What is the Law?” Jesus answered that we were to love God and we were to love our neighbor as ourselves. And He said, “On these two hang all the Law and the prophets,” and the lawyer looked at Him and said, “You’re right.” This is the intent of the Law. Now listen, Precious One, when our emotions and our desires and our thoughts take us contrary to what we are in Christ then we need to pause and we need to remember what Jesus says. We are sons of the Father and as sons of the Father, we are to be like the Father. Listen to what He says. (Matthew 5:44-46a) “...I say to you, love your enemies, pray for those that persecute you ...that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good; He sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you,” now here it is, “what reward have you?” Listen. That’s the way the rest of the world lives. They love those that love them. You and I have to show them that we belong to a different kingdom. We need to show them that our Father is not the murderer, not the evil one who was a liar from the beginning. But we need to show them that our Father is God Almighty who is a God of love, who is a God of justice but also a God of mercy a God who in wrath remembers mercy. And so He closes this part and says, (Matthew 5:47-48) “And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect,” even as your Father in heaven is perfect. Do you know in the Old Testament when He gave the Law He said this. You are to be holy even as I am holy. Holiness and perfection they’re one and the same. To be perfect means this: not that I am totally absolutely perfect but that I am like my Father. I’m mature in the way I handle people.