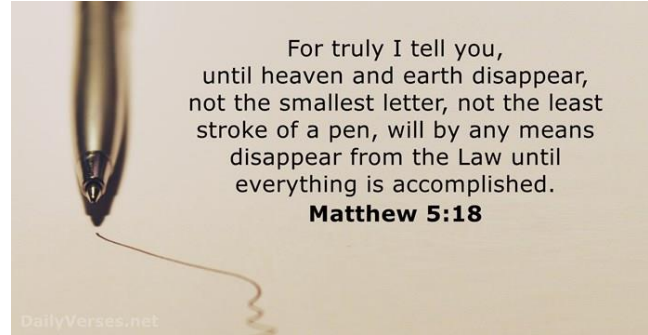


4—Christ on Hatred, Lust, and Lies

Text: Matthew 5:17-37

1. From time to time, what was one of the accusations made against Jesus and His apostles in the following passages (Matthew 12:2; John 5:16,18; Acts 21:20-21, 27-28)? Rather than “*destroying*” the law, what did Jesus say He came to do (Matthew 5:17-18)? What does this mean?



2. How did Jesus fulfill the Old Testament law (see Hebrews 4:15; 5:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21)? Because He has fulfilled the old law, does this mean we are under no law today (see 1 Corinthians 9:21)?

3. In the old law, murder was forbidden (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17). Yet, what issue does Jesus address in Matthew 5:21-22 that is at the heart of murder? According to the passage, how might we see this sin manifest itself?

4. What does Jesus encourage one to do who realizes there is a rift between him and his brother (Matthew 5:23-26)? How effective will our worship to God be when we are at war with God’s creation (cp. James 3:8-10)? What ought we do (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 11:27-31; 1 John 3:15)?

5. The Old Testament and the Jewish teachers would have spoken against the sin of adultery (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18). Yet, what does Jesus teach is the real problem which leads to adultery (Matthew 5:28; cp. Hebrews 13:4)?

6. What hyperbolic advice does Jesus give in Matthew 5:29-30? How might we put this practical advice in plain English as we try to help others with the issues of lust?

7. Jesus moves to the subject of divorce in Matthew 5:31-32. According to Matthew 5:31, the beliefs of many with regard to divorce were quite broad in the time of Christ. Yet, what one reason does Jesus give for divorce in Matthew 5:32? If one chooses to marry a person who has been “*put away*” then what sin does that person commit?



8. Is “*sexual immorality*” the same thing as “*adultery*?” If so, why are two different words used in this text? If not, what are the differences? Think.

9. What did the Old Testament teach on the subject of vows, oaths, and honesty (Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2)? What does Jesus say about swearing (Matthew 5:34-36)?

10. What does Jesus expect from His followers according to Matthew 5:37? How important is it for us to keep our word (cp. Ephesians 4:25; James 5:12)? How is truthfulness an expression of godliness (Hebrews 6:18)? Can you provide any examples of common ways people lie in our world today?