Law and Heart
Matthew 5:17-26

Roger Poppen – March 8, 2015

Series Theme: Lessons From The Master ('Sermon on the Mount'- Matthew 5-7)

5:17 – *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."*

- *"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."* (Luke 24:44)
- *"fulfill"* ('pleroo') – "best regarded as portraying Jesus as the one to whom the entire OT points and the one for whom Israel longs," (Mounce's Complete Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words)

To 'fulfill' the Law and Prophets (Old Testament), Jesus came to:

- _____ God's revelation (cf. John 1:14-18; Hebrews 1:1-2);
- _____ the sacrificial system which foreshadowed the cross and thus satisfy the law's demands (cf. Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 9:8-10; 10:1-18);
- _____ believers to uphold the law (Romans 3:31; 8:1-4; I John 2:3; 3:24);
- _____ and clarify God's righteous standards (Matthew 5:21-48).

5:21-16 – Jesus Clarifies *"You Shall Not Murder"* (Exodus 20:13)

- Jewish teachers: "It's about _____." (Exodus 21:12; Leviticus 24:17; Numbers 35:16-17; Deut. 5:7)
- Jesus' purpose: not to dispense with or contradict the law, but to _____ our understanding.

5:22 – What The Command Includes:

- Simmering _____
- Derogatory _____
- _____ accusations
- Conclusion: we need the _____ of forgiveness and righteousness received by _____ in Jesus Christ (cf. 5:20; Romans 3:21-24)

5:23-26 – What The Command Requires of Jesus-followers:

- 5:23-24 – Note the _____ of restoring relationships
- 5:25-26 – Note the _____ of restoring relationships
- Principle: the command to 'not murder' is a command to replace animosity _____ with initiative _____.

Conclusion:

- Because we are born with _____ hearts, we _____ Jesus.
- Because we are "born again" with _____ hearts, we can and must _____ relational animosity with relational restoration.

For Personal and/or Small Group Reflection

1. From Matthew 5:17-20, Summarize the relationship of Jesus to the OT (law and prophets).

2. Read Matthew 5:21-26. Do you struggle with anger? What triggers it? How do you express it?

3. What distinguishes righteous anger from unrighteous anger? (Reflect on John 2:13-22; Mark 3:5; Matthew 23:17; Luke 24:25; Ephesians 4:26-27; Hebrews 12:15; I Corinthians 15:36; Galatians 3:1; James 2:20)

4. To what type of anger is Jesus referring, and how is it related to murder?

5. What's the point about the different judgments in v.22? How might Jesus make the same point today?

6. According to vv. 23-24, what action are you to take if someone is angry with you?

7. What situation is Jesus describing in vv. 25-26? What truth is he teaching?

8. What's the bottom line issue with anger? (See Galatians 5:19-21; James 4:1-2). How do we "put it away" (Colossians 3:8)?

9. From this text – why is dealing with anger an urgent and necessary issue? (See Ephesians 4:26-27; Hebrews 12:15)

10. Your anger: do you justify it, or confess it?

11. What relational conflict do you need to urgently address? How will you approach it?

Notes: