

May 10, 2009

Sermon on the Mount ~ More Perfectly

Part XI
Matthew 5:23-37

Continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount TO the Jews compared to Paul's teachings of similar subjects only the way of God more perfectly for us today. We are told to follow Paul's teachings from the Risen Saviour, not the teachings of Jesus to the Jews during the Gospels. We can not only see the truth to us today, we can also see the false teachings in today's modern 'serious' Christianity along with a few of the softer Christian programs who still try to claim some scripture to their doctrinal foundations. Unfortunately, they are turning their people to the wrong gospel!

23: Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

- Does Paul ever talk about an altar?
- **Acts 17:23** - *For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*
 - Not in a good manner - it is looked upon as Old Testament!
 - These folks with family altars and devotions are playing OT religion!
- Paul reminds how we do NOT worship today!
 - **Acts 17:24,25** - *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;*
- **DEVOTION** - "The state of being dedicated, consecrated, or solemnly set apart for a particular purpose. External worship; acts of religion; performance of religious duties. Prayer to the Supreme Being. A Christian will be regular in his morning and evening devotions. An act of reverence, respect or ceremony."
- Note: In verse 23, the issue is not from you against your brother, but thy brother against thee!

24: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

- What gift are we to bring to an altar?
 - Today? Nothing - that is all still OT!

- **Hebrews 9:16,17** - *For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*
- I don't see any of those folks who say they are "Christians but don't believe in following Paul" ever trying to be reconciled to us again.
- We wouldn't have what little money we have today at all if we had to follow this 'commandment!'
 - You can't reconcile with your brother / friend, former church member, etc. you must keep your 'gift?'

25,26: *Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.*

- Agree with us? ha, right!
 - They certainly don't believe this, do they!
- Are we to agree with 'them?'
 - First, we give an honest effort to show them the truth!
 - **II Timothy 2:23-26** - *But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*
 - If that fails, and we have been through the grace, longsuffering, patience, mercy, etc. note the words "**Rebuke**," "**rebuke them sharply**," "**rebuke with all authority**," "**reproof**," "**contention**," "**dispute**," yet not be offensive (on purpose, anyway) - "**speak**," "**exhort**," "**speak evil of no man**," "**in meekness instructing**" - "**charge them**," "**command and teach**" and "**preach**" the Book.
 - If they want to argue, we are to give them two opportunities or so - and then move on!
 - **Titus 3:10** - *A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;*
 - We are also to stay away from the unlearned questions and arguments, etc.!
 - they **gender strifes**
 - they **minister questions**
 - they are **unprofitable** and **vain**
 - **whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness...**
- For them to agree with us as their adversary to save an argument not only keeps them 'out of jail,' it was important to their salvation!
 - See **verses 43-48**
 - especially **verse 45** - *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:*

27: *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:*

28: *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

- Why don't they apply this with **I Timothy 3:2a** when they go after a pastor, etc.
 - *A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife...*
 - More pastors are out of the pulpit that need to be...
 - And don't those folks know anything in their own gospel teachings about casting the first stone?
 - **John 8:7** - *So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

29: *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

30: *And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

- Loss of your salvation because of what you have seen? or touched?
- Evil communications can do damage - and keep someone from salvation, etc. but never take it away!

31: *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:*

32: *But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

- God has grace for pastors and people more than people have for pastors!
 - The South is notorious for burying people cuz of a divorce in their past.
 - Paul on divorce and remarriage:
 - **I Corinthians 7:12,13** - *But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.*
 - **I Corinthians 7:15,16** - *But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?*
 - **I Corinthians 7:27,28** - *Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.*
 - Even for a bad reason, divorce is not an unpardonable sin - even for pastors in America.

- **Galatians 6:1** - *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

33: *Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:*

- forswear - swear falsely - commit perjury, etc.

34: *But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:*

35: *Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.*

36: *Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.*

37: *But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

- We have contracts today - the Christian influence of honesty and trust is over!
- Maybe most of the so-called Christians are not really 'brothers' in a saved sense, anyway.
- Paul only mentions oaths twice
 - David, **Acts 2:30**
 - and the oath taken against him! **Acts 23:21**

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The entire King James Bible is written FOR us, but it is not all written TO us!

We learn from the "For" and we try to apply the "TO!"