

Jesus Gets to the Heart of Divorce and Dishonesty

Matthew 5:31-37 Bethel Bible Church April 19, 2020

Review and refresh . . . it has been 7 Sundays since we spent 7 Sundays teaching the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus in Matthew 5-7. In this sermon, Jesus as the teacher authoritatively casts his vision of what his people, the church, should look like and live like with the new life that he gives.

Read and review 5:3-12 the blessed, the kind of people that are in God's kingdom

5:13-16 the influence blessed people have as salt and light

5:17-48 how Jesus explains and completes the scriptures

17-20 2 truths:

21-48 6 illustrations:

The 2 issues raised by Jesus in verses 31-37 are those of divorce and dishonesty. There are few topics that bring to mind emotional and relational pain more than those of divorce and dishonesty. One thing they have in common is that they are commonly accepted as solutions to complex life stress and problems. Jesus teaches that both are ineffective solutions, make the problems even worse and reveal the need for heart transformation that only he provides.

Jesus Gets to the Heart of Divorce . . . 5:31-32

What you have heard. *It was also said*

What that truth really includes. *But I say to you*

How that truth impacts your new life.

Jesus Gets to the Heart of Dishonesty . . . 5:33-37

What you have heard. 33 *again you have heard that it was said of old*

What that truth really includes. 34-36 *But I say to you*

How that truth impacts your new life. 37

Think and talk about . . .

1. What are some hurts or stressful situations that tempt you to want to run or lie?
2. What do stressful relationships reveal about our hearts that can only be resolved and redeemed by Jesus?
3. Look over the sermon on the mount and identify themes Jesus teaches that would be helpful or applicable to you in times of relational hurt or stress. For example – any of the 'blesseds' in 5:3-12; seek first 5:33; being truthful with yourself 7:1ff. What others?
4. Pray, asking God for help and strength to turn to him with your hurts and hopelessness.
5. How does what Jesus say in Matthew 11:28-30 encourage you?