



Raising the Bar
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Lead Pastor

Matthew 5:21-48, p.677

Consider:

1. What we have been taught or always understood may not be what God originally intended.
2. What Jesus taught is typically much deeper than what we thought.
3. Jesus is not negating the commands of the Old Testament (5:17-19) but clarifying the intended direction of these commands.
4. Jesus provides us with six examples of what it means to be salt & light; to have a righteousness that surpasses (5:13-16 & 20):

Murder → *Deal appropriately with your anger* (21-26)

Adultery → *Aggressively confront your lust* (27-30)

Divorce → *Honor your marriage* (31-32)

Truth → *Simply tell the truth* (33-37)

Revenge → *Give up your rights* (38-42)

Enemies → *Act like your Father in Heaven* (43-48)

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THE

ONE THING: *It's not about "stop it," it's about surrender!*

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NEXT STEPS

- Memorize the Sermon on the Mount.
- Take the inventory at home.
- Surrender.
- Please send me a copy of your sermon notes.

NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

KEEPING IT REAL

1 Tell of a time when you heard someone (Bible study, television, family) offer their opinion about the Bible or a selected Scripture that conflicted with what you believe or have heard in the past?

LOOK AT THE BOOK

2 Read: **Matthew 5:21-48** How many times do you see the phrase "you have heard that it was said ... But I tell you..." Why is it so easy to misinterpret "what has been said"?

3 Read **Matthew 5:43-45** and **John 13:34**. How is refraining from anger (a form of murder), praying for your enemy, not lusting, not taking offense at an insult a fulfillment of Matthew 5:21-48? How are forgiveness, reconciliation and kindness expressions of our love for one another?

TAKING IT FURTHER

4 What do you think Jesus' radical statement, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" actually means? How do you intend to chase after it?

WORSHIP LYRICS

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

[Power to Redeem](#)

[Nothing But the Blood](#)

[Revelation Song](#)

[Build My Life](#)

[Is He Worthy](#)

[We Believe](#)