

The Sermon on the Mount

[Matthew 5:17-48](#)

"You Have Heard it Said " – June 20, 2021



Introduction

Jesus shows us that God's ways are always perfect and we should trust Him and obey. Jesus wants to show us that as citizens of Christ's kingdom, Christians are called to radical righteousness and a full obedience to God's laws as they are fulfilled in Christ.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline – Six Examples of Radical Righteousness

- I. Radical Relationships ([21-26](#))
- II. Radical Purity ([27-30](#))
- III. Radical Understanding of Divorce ([31-32](#))
- IV. Radical Truthfulness ([33-37](#))
- V. Radical Selflessness ([38-42](#))
- VI. Radical Love ([43-48](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [21-26](#)

Are you guilty of an unrighteous anger right this past week? Jesus likens this sort of hatred to murder. The laws of God go far past outward appearance, but to the heart. Has Christ's radical righteousness penetrated your relationships with others? Are there areas in your heart you need to repent of anger and seek reconciliation with another? Is there an outstanding offense you have had with another Christian? Take time this week to seek forgiveness and to promote the unity of the spirit by following Christ in this important aspect.

- 2) Read [27-30](#)

Jesus also shows us a radical example of purity. He show us that it's a sin to even look at someone lustfully. Is there lust in your heart lately? Are there times when you try to make excuses for the sins nobody can see? Seek repentance, heed the seriousness Christ brings in these verses. We are all sexually broken, each in our own ways, but there is hope in Him. A life of lust is so dangerous to us that Jesus wants us to take extreme measures as we fight against it. Are there some radical measures you need to take to flee this sin this week? You cannot fight sin with your own will power. Pray for God's help and seek wise counsel from your church body.

- 3) Read [31-32](#)

The Bible allows for divorce when there is marital unfaithfulness or the desertion of a believer by an unbelieving spouse. Generally speaking, when divorce is permissible in Scripture then

remarriage is generally permissible as well. Divorce, when it is in accordance with biblical guidelines, is not a sin. However, we are to mourn divorce and take a stand against divorce that goes against God's biblical principles. Divorce leaves pain in the lives of those involved.

Additional Reading: [Matthew 19:4-12](#), [1 Corinthians 7:8-16](#)

4) Read [33-37](#)

Do you take your word seriously? What we say and how we follow through with our words matters to God. We are all naturally born sinners and liars. As radically righteous people of God's kingdom we should never need an oath to show we are telling the truth. Our words should speak truth because God's Word is truth. We are called to reflect Him. What would it look like for you this week to live a life that is radically truthful? It takes humility. Our integrity as believers makes such a difference with our public witness.

5) Read [38-42](#)

Have you experienced insults based on your faith? Jesus tells us we should show ourselves to be truly His disciples of Him by the way we absorb hatred and injustice for our faith. A vulnerable love often brings people to see God more clearly. This type of radical righteousness is the salt and life of the world. The Christian life is an open handed life. We have been loved beyond what we deserve, so we should strive to replicate that kind of love as well even to those who have wronged us just as Jesus did. Thanks to Jesus we are able to let go of fairness, because are glad Jesus was not "fair" to us. What are some ways you can show your boss, your family, and/or your friends this kind of radical love this week?

Additional Reading: [Romans 12:17-21](#)

6) Read [43-48](#)

How are you doing loving without limits? This radical love distinguishes us from the world. We are called to love both those who are easy to love and your enemies. Followers of Jesus should do more than what is common among nonbelievers in the way we show love. Where can you show the radical love Jesus calls us to this week? Jesus is our perfect example and motivation for this sort of love.

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Matthew 6:1-18](#) "Your Father Who is in Secret"