Here we have the first in a series of statements in which Jesus shows His disciples the true meaning of the Law; the Law which He came to fulfil. This is the ethical standard by which citizens of the Kingdom of heaven are to live. When we understand and live by this “Law of Christ” (1 Cor 9:21) we will be salt and light, able to fulfil our calling as fishers of men.

**Personal Application**

Q What sorts of things / situations typically make us angry? Is there anything common to these things?

Q Read v21-22. How does Jesus challenge the understanding of what his listeners have heard? What do you think they would have made of it?

Q Look up 1 Samuel 16:7. How do we a similar principle at work in how Jesus applies God’s Law?

Q Read v23-24. How should Jesus’ disciples handle things when they know they have caused offense? Why is this so important?

Q Read v25-16. What point is Jesus making in this second case study?

Q Is it ever right to be angry (see Eph 4:26)? Read 1 Peter 2:21-23. How did Jesus handle offenses against Himself? What areas of your own life do you need to pay special attention to with regards to anger?
Jesus continues, through this second half of chapter 5, to direct His hearers to a correct and full understanding of God’s Law. This is clearly very different from the way that the crowds had heard the Law explained by the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law! Having already unpacked the 6th commandment, Jesus now moves on to the 7th, and here again we see the utter folly of putting any hope in our own ability to keep God’s commands.

**Personal Application**

Q What are some of the signs that lust is a really big problem in our culture?

Q Read v27-28. How does Jesus show us the real intention behind the 7th commandment? How do you think those who heard Jesus say this would have reacted?

Q Read Romans 3:19-20. How is the way Jesus is applying the 7th commandment exactly what Paul is saying here? What is our instinctive response to hearing a Law? …and what affect should it have on a self-righteous hearer?

Q Read v31-32. How does Jesus deal with another “loophole for lust” in these verses?!

Q Read v29-30. What point is Jesus making in these verses? – should we really cut bits off our bodies?!

Q Read Colossians 3:5-8. How do we put these sinful desires to death (v5)?

Q Tim Chester writes: ‘battling porn in our lives is not an exercise in denying pleasure. It’s about fighting pleasure with greater pleasure’ … ‘So with every false promise of porn there is a true promise of God. Whatever porn offers, God offers more’.

How can you and I become captured by a better vision than the deceitful pleasure that lust promises us?
Sermon Summary

Continuing His application of the Law, Jesus moves on to the issue of truthfulness. He takes on the teaching of the day, (gleaned from the books of Moses) regarding the making of oaths. The Rabbis of Jesus day argued back and forth about when an oath was binding and when it was not! Jesus will not allow such games to be played in His Kingdom!

Personal Application

Q What are some of the “white lies” that people think are not that serious?

Q Read v33-36. Was there anything wrong with what they had heard (v33)? What do you think Jesus means when He tells them not to swear at all (v34)?

Q Do you think the first disciples thought this was an absolute prohibition? (look up Hebrews 6:13, Acts 18:18 and Romans 1:9-10).

Q What was wrong with the way that the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law were using oaths? Read Matthew 23:16-22 and compare it with v34-36 here.


Q Read v37. What is the principle that disciples are to live by? Why is this a very serious issue?

Q What kind of situations tempt us to lie? How can we guard our hearts against deceit?
As Jesus continues to teach His disciples the way in which the Law applies to them through Him, we now come to the final two sections concerning the exercise of our personal rights and our interaction with those who mistreat us.

**Sermon Summary**

**Passage:** Matthew 5:38-48

**Preacher:** Andy Bruins

**Date:** 10th September 2023

**Personal Application**

Q What do we consider to be our inalienable rights with regards to justice, possessions, time and money?

Q Read v38 and 43. What had the people heard? What was wrong with the way they were using the Law?

Q Read v39. How is what Jesus says different? Is He contradicting the Law (see Leviticus 24:17-20)? Why / why not?

Q Read v39-42. Is it always wrong to for us to oppose an evil person or insists on your rights? Take a look at Acts 16:35-40 – Why is what Paul does here ok? Why do you think he did what he did? What do you think is the real point behind what Jesus says here in Matthew 5?

Q Read v43-48. How is loving your enemies a way of imitating God? Why is this such an important command?

Q Read Romans 12:17-21. Why is loving an enemy so hard? How does what Paul says here give us a new perspective on doing so?