

Sermon on the Mount Series – Week Eight

Obedience in the Toughest Areas of Life

Matthew 5:21-47

Introduction: True kingdom obedience is obedience that flows from the heart and goes beyond mere externals. That obedience is willing to address the six toughest areas of life and is willing to be empowered by God.

1. *REMEMBERING THE VISION* – Jesus calls us to a comprehensive spiritual maturity in his power. *Mt. 5:20; 48*

- A. Mt. 5:20 – Jesus demands a fundamentally different sort of righteousness than the Pharisees.
 - 1. The Pharisees pursued a highly externalized works-righteousness.
 - 2. Disciples embrace an imputed righteousness that is received by faith.
- B. Mt. 5:48 – Our righteousness must be a comprehensive righteousness.
 - 1. Teleios means comprehensively mature.
 - 2. The context suggests that our motive is 1) vision for God and 2) his power.
- C. Summary – Since disciples have a new nature they must pursue maturity in line with that nature.

2. *ACCEPTING HIS CHALLENGE* – Jesus calls us to obey him in six tough areas. *Matthew 5:21-47*

- A. Gaining an overview of the six of these areas. 5:21-47
 - 1. Jesus addresses six “sample” areas that fall into in three categories: money, sex & power.
 - 2. Jesus uses a formula: “You have heard” (5x) and “It has been said” (1x).
 - 3. Jesus presents six antitheses that highlight his authority.
- B. Area #1 – Obeying God when we’re angry. 5:21-26
- C. Area #2 – Obeying God in the face of lust. 5:27-30
- D. Area #3 – Obeying God in our marriage. 5:31-32
- E. Area #4 – Obeying God in the commitments we make. 5:33-37
- F. Area #5 – Obeying God when we’d rather get even. 5:38-42
- G. Area #6 – Obeying God when we have enemies. 5:43-47

3. *ACTING ON HIS WORDS* – Observe the principle of proactive obedience.

- A. Immediate challenge – Proactive discipleship is willing to make hard decisions.
 - 1. In each of the examples, we’re commanded to make tough decisions followed by action.
 - 2. The foundation for this is going to be our character (1st 3 beatitudes).
 - 3. Moment-by-moment we rely on his power (“*You shall be...*” [v. 48]).
- B. Long-term challenge – We are called to spread around the fame of his name.
 - 1. When we act counter-intuitively to the world people take notice. 5:45
 - 2. This is the second time Jesus has called us to live a noteworthy life. 5:16
 - 3. The assumption in all this is that we are to be productively immersed in the world.

How Am I Doing at Obeying in the Six Areas?

<p>Area #1 – Obeying God even when we're angry. 5:21-26</p> <p><i>Addresses power</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there anyone with whom I am angry right now?• Is there someone who is angry with me?• What can I do to make things right? <p>➔ What would obedience look like in those relationships?</p>
<p>Area #2 – Obeying God in the face of lust. 5:27-30</p> <p><i>Addresses sex</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent is my thought life under control?• Am I looking at things I shouldn't look at on the internet?• Am I in chat rooms I shouldn't be in? <p>➔ What would it take for me to obey in this area?</p>
<p>Area #3 – Obeying God in our marriage. 5:31-32</p> <p><i>Addresses power</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Am I taking proactive responsibility to build my marriage right now?• How might my spouse say that I am doing as a partner? <p>➔ What would obedience look like in my marriage or family?</p>
<p>Area #4 – Obeying God in the commitments we make. 5:33-37</p> <p><i>Addresses money</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where does greed dominate my life?• Where am I tempted to lie to gain advantage? <p>➔ What would obedience look like in my business and financial dealings?</p>
<p>Area #5 – Obeying God when we'd rather get even. 5:38-42</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Am I willing to accept certain levels of injustice as part of living in a fallen world?• Am I willing to accept certain levels of injustice as a Christian?

<p><i>Addresses power</i></p>	<p>➔ What would obedience look like in this area?</p>
<p>Area #6 – Obeying God when we have enemies. 5:43-47</p> <p><i>Addresses power</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do I have any enemies? Who are they?• How can I “love” them? <p>➔ What do I need to do to be a conduit of common grace to them?</p>