

Matthew 5:21-48

The Heart of the Matter: Internal Righteousness

Jesus has six statements of: **You have heard it said, BUT I TELL YOU...**

Verses 21-26 – Hate

Do not murder BUT I TELL YOU do not hate.

Pray for your “enemy”. Pray for patience. Actively seek ways to love those hardest to love in your life.

Verses 27-30 – Lust

Do not commit adultery BUT I TELL YOU do not lust.

Pray for a desire for purity. Purposely put safe guards in your life to protect yourself from lust.

Verses 31-32 – Commitment

Putting your wife away BUT I TELL YOU do not divorce.

Pray for a passion for your marriage. Remember, love is an action. Actively love and put your spouse first.

Work on knowing and strengthening your spouse. Speak lovingly about your spouse to others.

Verses 33-37 – Truth

Taking oaths BUT I TELL YOU let your yes be yes.

Pray that you’re a person of integrity. Don’t lie. Be honest. Be wise with the truth.

Verses 38-42 – Grace

Eye for an eye BUT I TELL YOU be gracious.

Pray for an attitude of mercy and grace. Walk away. Breathe. Pray before you speak.

Verses 43-48 – Love

Love some hate others BUT I TELL YOU love ALL people.

Pray for a desire to love all people. Actively love others.

Verse 48 – Capstone to Verses 21-47 – Be Complete

The Greek word translated “perfect” is better translated “completeness”. Jesus is telling everyone they must be “complete” (actions and heart working together in harmony without sin). This verse is written to drive us to the gospel. To help us understand that we need Jesus because we are incomplete.

Any way you slice it, we are incomplete. God alone is complete. Fully mature. Perfect. Our only hope is the gospel. Jesus being our righteousness for us.

Seek to know Christ through the Scriptures. Pray that the Spirit will guide you into all righteousness. Step out in faith, living for God’s glory.