

The Life of Christ

Sermon on the Mount >> Personal Relationships (Continued)

Matthew 5:33-37 **Do not swear – Personal integrity vs defaming God**

- vs 33 Quoting Leviticus 19:12, i.e. "Do not swear falsely in My name." which results in profaning God's name >> swear by "whatever", fail, "whatever" is worthless. This is the reasoning for the entire passage, and is scaled against the absolute sovereignty of God.
- vs 34-35 Things of God, not of our own
- vs 36 Even ourselves are not in our own control, but under God's sovereign hand.
- vs 37 Conclusion – personal integrity. If we don't swear by God's domain, then our words and actions reflect more properly on us, though still identified with Christ.

How to be Gentle, Merciful, Peacemakers while being Persecuted.

Matthew 5:38-42 **Do not resist persecution**

1

- vs 38 Quoting Exodus 21:24 – laws concerning judgments for killing or maiming. Note: never (to our knowledge) practiced literally, but as a reference for scaling the fine to be levied. Suggested interpretation, "no more than an eye for an eye."
- vs 38-41 What's going on here?! Outreach. Desperate or angry displaced by kindness. Proverbs 15:1 "...soft answer turns away wrath."
Generosity and kindness in turn for angry demands is a viable alternative to retaliatory anger!
- Note Roman soldiers could requisition personal property and service from native population, practice for conscription for baggage-carrying was 1,000 paces (mile).

Matthew 5:42 **Give Generously**

2

Quoting Deuteronomy 15:7ff – directions to be generous to those in need. not to be taken to literal extremes, but in the spirit of caring for one another as we have ability to do so. Not a command for vows of poverty, see Deuteronomy.

Luke 6:30-36

- vs 30 Expansion of Matthew 5:42
A "loan" which is a gift, until proven otherwise
- vs 31 Who knew? The "Golden Rule" was in the context of giving, not behavior!
- vs 32-36 Be merciful to needs, in spite of wrongs or grievances, for God (Colossians 3:23)

Matthew 5:43-48 **Love your enemies**

3

- vs 43 Quoting Leviticus 19:17-18
- vs 43-47 Love, benevolence to all, not just to our own families, friends, and countrymen
- vs 48 Leviticus 19:1-2 "Be ye holy for I am holy"