



In Matthew 5:17-37, Jesus emphasizes that He hasn't come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. He then expands on specific commandments, deepening their implications: anger is equated with murder, lust with adultery, and divorce is restricted to cases of sexual immorality. He also condemns oaths, urging people to be honest without swearing. Through these teachings, Jesus calls for a deeper, more heartfelt commitment to God's Word, focusing on our purity and integrity.

**Key Passage:** Matthew 5:17-37

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In verse 20, Jesus states that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. What does this mean? How might this challenge our perceptions of religion and morality? How are we tempted toward superficial religiosity?
2. In verses 21-22, Jesus equates anger with murder. How does this shift the focus from actions to attitudes? Why is addressing internal attitudes necessary for changing external behavior? What does it look like to surrender anger, hatred, and contempt to Jesus?
3. In verses 23-24, Jesus emphasizes the importance of reconciliation. How does this teaching prioritize relationships over religious rituals? What practical steps can we take to reconcile with others?
4. Verses 25-26 advise quickly settling matters with adversaries. How can this principle be applied in modern conflict resolution? What are the benefits and potential challenges of seeking early resolution?
5. In verses 27-28, Jesus equates lustful thoughts with adultery. How does this redefine our understanding of faithfulness and purity? What strategies can we employ to maintain purity?
6. Verses 29-30 suggest taking drastic actions to avoid sin. How should we practically interpret these verses? What are some modern equivalents of "cutting off a hand" to avoid sin? Why are we reluctant to take decisive steps to protect ourselves from sinful situations?
7. Verses 31-32 address divorce. How do Jesus' teachings on divorce challenge contemporary views on marriage and commitment? What principles can we derive for maintaining healthy marital relationships?
8. In verses 33-37, Jesus advises against making oaths. How does this teaching promote honesty and integrity? How can we cultivate a habit of truthful and straightforward communication?