

## “The Sermon on the Mount (pt. 2)

### The Christians *Responses*”

*Matt. 5:17-48*

**Open:** *Understand the purpose of Christs teaching*

- Jesus wanted Christians to see the need to transfer from following carnal logic (tradition) to obeying by faith.
  - Tradition *always* tramples true religion. **Mt. 15:2-3** “But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? [3] Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.”
- Jesus wanted His followers to go from following what man said the Bible meant; to obeying what the Bible said.
  - Bible truth should never be traded for man’s traditions. **Mt. 15:6b & 9** “...Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. [9] But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

**Tran:** *Jesus’ introduction to His sermon. vs. 17-20*

- In **Mt. 5:17**, Jesus reassured His followers that He had come to fulfil the law, not destroy it. He needed His followers to understand the keeping of man’s “*spiritual*” traditions was not obeying Bible truth.
    - **Vs. 21-22** = It’s not ok to kill; but it’s ok to badmouth and criticize.
    - **Vs. 27-28** = It’s not ok to commit adultery; but it’s ok to look and lust.
    - **Vs. 38-39** = It’s ok to lash out in revenge; but God says respond properly.
    - **Vs. 43-44** = It’s ok to be unkind to those who hate you; but God says love all equally.
  - In **Mt. 5:18**, Jesus wanted His followers to realize He was not there as a man to speak His own words. He wanted his followers to understand that He was preaching the Word of God and not His own opinion.
    - **Ps. 138:2** “... for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”
  - In **Mt. 5:19**, Jesus wanted His followers to recognize the consequences of not obeying the truth(s) and misrepresenting the truth(s) He was about to teach.
    - **Rev. 22:18** “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”
  - In **Mt. 5:20**, Jesus wanted to stress to His followers it was not the keeping of tradition that gets one saved, keeps one saved, or makes one spiritual; it is the obeying of Bible truth.
    - **Rom. 10:3** “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”
- Am I going to respond **traditionally** how man has said is ok to respond; or am I going to respond **Biblically** how God says I am to respond?

**I. We need to be prepared, with our *word* and our *actions*, to respond properly to the improper actions of people around us. (Mt. 5:21-24; 43-48)**

A. Being prepared with our words. **Mt. 5:21-22**

1. No argument has ever been solved by responding angrily to anger. **Prov. 15:1** *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*
2. There is a right way to respond and there is a wrong way to respond. The response is not dependent on the offender, but on the offended. **Prov. 15:2** *The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”*
  - I can not control someone’s actions; but I can **ALWAYS** control my response.

B. Being prepared with our actions. **Mt. 5:23-24; 43-48**

1. The word “gift” in **Mt. 5:23-24** means to offer a peace offering.
  - a. We should be prepared to “for”give. We are to predetermine our response and have the gift of forgiveness ready to be offered to the offender before the offence is made. **Prov. 21:14** *“A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.”*
  - b. Our response to the offender should not grieve the Holy Spirit. **Eph. 4:30-32** *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: [32] And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*
2. We are not to just talk about and possess the knowledge about how to respond to anger; we are to use the knowledge God has given us to resolve the situation. (**Mt. 5:43-48**)
  - a. We are not to respond to the improper action of people around us the way people have said is ok to respond, “an eye for an eye”.
  - b. We are to respond the way the Bible instructs us to, “love...bless...pray for”

**II. We should act *quickly*, to resolve any issue, to prevent further repercussions. (Mt. 25-26; 39-42)**

- We can’t prevent all negative situations; but we should not be the ones preventing them from being resolved. **Luke 17:1** *“Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!”*

A. We should not allow disagreements to fester and give room for a more severe, carnal response. **You will have less problems and save more money by learning to forgive. (Mt. 5:25-26).**

- **Eph. 4:26-27** *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil.”*
1. You might win (in court); but did you really gain what you were seeking?
  2. Do what is necessary to defuse the situation. No monetary value can be placed on a mended and a restored relationship or testimony.

B. Before we act foolishly, we must ask ourselves if the results we gain from losing our temper and proving are point will be worth what is destroyed in the process (**Mt. 5:39-42**).

- **Prov. 19:11** *“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression”*
  1. The Bible is not saying that Christians are to be pushovers and easy to take advantage of.
  2. It does not teach us that it is wrong to defend yourself or your financial interests.
  3. The Bible is stressing and re-stressing the importance of doing all you can to keep the situation from being unnecessarily out of control.

### III. **The Christians response to the issues of morality.** (Matt. 5: 27– 32)

- A. Notice, I am not to respond to a situation where indecency is present with a carnal approach; but with a spiritual one. (I may not be able to help the first look, but the second look is my fault). **Mt. 5:27-30**
- B. It is important to recognize that God does not say divorce is what should take place in marriage. He is stressing that if the afore mention principles are applied that marriages will be far less likely to end up in a divorce. **Mt. 5:31-32** (cross reference **Mt. 19:4-8**)
- It is interesting to note that God discusses the relationship between money, marriage, love, and the obeying of the law all in the same chapter.

### IV. **We should not create unnecessary stress in an already stressful situation.** (Mt. 5:38-39)

- A. When a situation is stressful, we should not take that moment to seek vengeance or prove our point. We should respond biblically and leave the vengeance up to God.
1. We are to love the way God loved, not respond to the offender the way that man says is ok to respond. **Prov. 10:12** *“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”*
  2. We are to be those that appease strife, not stir it up. **Prov. 15:18** *“A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.”*
- B. Learn to be prudent an foresee when a stressful situation might arise and do what you can to prevent it from happening, or just avoid it all together. **Prov. 17:14** *“The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.”*
- C. Do not get involved in other people’s problems. You will more often than not make the situation unnecessarily stressful for both yourself and others around you.
1. **Prov. 26:17** *“He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.”*
  2. **Prov. 26:20-21** *“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. [21] As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.”*

#### **Prov. 16:32**

*“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”*

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### **“Review Questions”**

1. We need to be prepared, with our **?????**, to respond properly to the improper actions of people around us. **Words.**
2. We need to be prepared, with our **?????**, to respond properly to the improper actions of people around us. **Action.**
3. We should not create unnecessary **?????** in an already stressful situation. **Stress.**
4. We should act **?????**, to resolve the issue, to prevent any further repercussions. **Quickly.**
5. You will have less problems and save more money by learning to **??????** **Forgive.**