

2. Commandments: The Meaning of Discipleship (5:17-48)

Sermon on the Mount

1. This section focuses on Jesus' teaching of the Law of Moses (Torah). He expands on what Moses taught and goes more in depth than the Religious Teachers (scribes and Pharisees). When you consider what Jesus says here, what is your first reaction? Why do you suppose Jesus wants to address this subject in depth? (5:19-20)

2. Jump ahead to the love section (5:43-48). The final verse (5:48) reads in NKJV, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jot down your initial thoughts about what Jesus means by this. Then go back and read carefully the context again. What is the context of v.43-48 about overall?

3. Complete this paraphrase of v.48 – "Since your Father in heaven shows perfect, impartial love, even toward his enemies, you therefore must show perfect, impartial _____, even toward your enemies... Be _____ for your Father in heaven is _____."

4. What does this tell you about how we should understand the rest of the commandments in this chapter?

5. For each section, provide the cross reference to the Old Testament commandment (look in your cross references), the common teaching of the day, and Jesus teaching:

What they taught	What Jesus taught
5:21	5:22-26
5:27	5:28-30
5:31	5:32
5:33	5:34-37
5:38	5:39-42
5:43	5:44-47

* Try to number any of the 10 commandments you can identify (1-10, See Exodus 20:1-17). For those commands that are not part of the 10 commandments, put "Other" next to.

6. Go back and read 5:19 – What do these verses on the commandments say about Jesus own life and obedience to the Law?

7. Jesus says that He has not come to abolish, but to fulfill the Law and Prophets (Whole OT). Here is a quote from Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, “Discipleship means adherence to Jesus Christ alone, and immediately.” But what about the Law then? On the one hand, this means that adherence to the Law without Jesus is not discipleship, and on the other hand, adherence to Jesus without the Law is equally removed from discipleship. So how should we read the Laws of the Old Testament based on Jesus’ teaching in this section?

8. Look again at the order of the commandments. Why do you suppose that Jesus begins with anger before addressing lust/divorce?

9. Why do you think Jesus ends with love?

10. Do you think Jesus expects all of these commandments to be obeyed?

11. Which of his “sayings” do you feel are the most difficult to follow?

12. What do you think he would say when his disciples don’t follow these commandments?

13. Look at 7:24-25. What is Jesus trying to teach us overall?

14. How does this all point back to the “You’re not from around here” theme of Jesus and His disciples?