

## The River Church

### 50/50 Bible Study Challenge - Week 19

#### Matthew Chapter 5

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:25 "Come to good terms with your accuser quickly, while you are with him on the way to court, so that your accuser will not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will not be thrown into prison."

#### Talking Points:

##### Verse 1-12, The Beatitudes

What do you notice about each of the beatitudes that they all have in common?

What do the beatitudes teach us about how we are to live?

What do they teach us about the heart of the Father?

Are the beatitudes a prescriptive list of qualities?

Pay attention to how the beatitudes are written, what about this structure stands out?

### Verse 13-20

Salt is a preservative, it also gives flavor and can be used medically. If we are to be salt, how can we develop these qualities?

In verses 14-16, Christ says that believers as the light, "give light to all in the house" *and* to "shine before others". How are these two commands different? How are they similar?

A city on a hill offers safety, comfort, and community. By being on a hill it is easily distinguishable and well protected. How can the church be a "city on the hill" to others?

How can we as the church offer safety to new believers and non believers?

How can we be "easily seen" as Christians?

Verse 13-16 offer characteristics of the followers of Christ, verses 17-20 show characteristics of Christ. What characteristics of Christ do you see in these verses?

How do we get the righteousness described in verse 20?

## Verse 21-48: The Teachings on the Law

The Rest of the chapter addresses several issues that are covered under Mosaic Law. The law was extensive and covered much more than these issues. Why would Jesus choose these specific issues to address?

The first issue Jesus addressed was anger. How does Jesus' teaching on anger differ from the law? How is it similar?

Verse 25 mentions coming to terms prior to being before a judge, what is the symbolism in this?

What is the difference between the act of lust and the thought of lust?

What is happening in verse 30? Are believers supposed to mutilate themselves?

Is Jesus' teaching on divorce *prescriptive* or *descriptive*. (is it a literal instruction or is it a figurative description of heart condition? Or is it both?)

What does Jesus have to say about the power of oaths?

How does this align with what the Bible teaches about the power of our words?

Verse 37 teaches simplicity. Knowing what we know about the power of our words, how are we to interact with each other? How are we to interact with the world?

Jesus' teaching on retaliation and loving your enemies show a conflict with what the law says. How do we accomplish these teachings with a genuine heart and not a passive aggressive heart?

What are practical ways to deal with conflict and retaliation according to Jesus' words here?

What does loving our enemies look like? Can we still call people enemies if we are to love them?

The last verse says we must be perfect, is this possible?