

Homegroup Notes :- Matthew 5:21-32

The Sermon on the Mount Part 1

Murder – The Law of God extends beyond external acts to the workings of our inner mind e.g. Anger, Scorn and Resentment. What kind of anger might be justifiable? Are we in danger of personalising anger? (Corbyn, May???)

Read 5:21-26

1. What three specific behaviours does Christ condemn? Why do you think this is so? (Verse 22)
2. What should we do when anger or resentment causes issues between us? (Verse 24)
3. What do we fear when we try to build bridges and achieve reconciliation? How can we overcome this?

Adultery – 41% of marriages experience some form of adulterous activity. 74% of men and 68% of women say they would commit adultery if they knew they wouldn't get caught. Why are these statistics so high?

Read 5:27-30

4. How was the definition of the sin of adultery changed upon Jesus' coming? (verse 28)
5. Why does Christ use such extreme examples such as cutting off your right hand or gouging out your eye in verse 29-30?
6. How important is it that we have someone who we can be accountable to in part of our drastic action in dealing with sin? What other approaches can we take?

Divorce – In the UK, there are 150,000 divorces every year contributing to 2.5 million children living in single parent families. Why do people not follow through with vows made at a wedding service?

Read 5:31-32 and also 1 Cor 7:10-11 & 15

7. On what grounds can a divorce legitimately take place according to the NT?
8. What can we do to support those whose marriages are 'on the rocks'? Should we condone divorce on the grounds of unhappiness?

Pray God grants us wisdom, knowledge and strength when devising strategies to combat temptation. Pray that we can find true pleasure in following Christ which surpasses the short term pleasures associated with sin.