

Deane Church + Lostock Church w/b Sunday 22nd July 2017
Matthew 5:33-48

1. Looking back over Matthew Chapter 5 so far, what has been the most encouraging or the most challenging teaching for you?

Read Matthew 5:33-37

The Old testament permits people to take oaths, even oaths in God's name (Deuteronomy 10:20). In the New Testament, Paul regularly swears by God's name (Romans 1:9, 2Corinthians 1:23). God himself swears (Genesis 9:9-11). By Jesus' time however, the Jews had developed a whole additional body of rules (not part of the Bible) about oath making, including instructions about when oaths were binding and when they weren't!

2. Why do you think Jesus says what he says in verses 33-36?

3. How are we challenged today in living out Jesus' instruction in verse 37?

4. How is living out v37 a powerful witness to those around us?

Read Matthew 5:38-42 & Romans 13:1-7

5. What does 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' mean and how might it be (a) a helpful form of justice, (b) abused ?

6. The law was given to the Jewish people as a nation (Exodus 21, Leviticus 24, Deuteronomy 19). Putting this together with Romans 13:1-7, what might this tell us about whose responsibility it is to punish crime?

7. What might verses 38-42 tell us about the place of personal revenge and vendetta?

Read Matthew 5:43-48

8. Jesus commands love of enemy, which is a characteristic of God himself (v45). What other characteristic of God is mentioned here (v48) and how can we possibly emulate that?

9. Out of today's verses, what area of your life would you most like prayer for as you seek to be a man/woman after God's own heart?

TC 22-vii-17