

This, Not That

Intro

- Still mourning from last week's Falcons Super Bowl loss
- Entering our 6th week of our series 'The Great Invite'
- Sermon on the Mount where he instructs his followers who have come to hear him speak and heal
- 2 weeks ago= #Blessed
 - blessed in order to be a blessing
 - Tough opening message from Jesus to his followers
 - Everyone blessed not just the rich, good looking, etc
- Last week= Be Salt and Light
 - Jesus told his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world
 - We are to be salt in the world, our goodness should flavor the world we live in with God's love
 - We are to shine the light of Jesus, so that others will be drawn to him
- This week= This, Not That
 - Jesus is correcting some of the thoughts and assumptions that his followers had

Matthew 5:21-37 ESV

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city

of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

Theme

1. Jesus different teaching
 - a. This= his teaching over
 - b. That= way people normally taught the law and prophets
2. These commandments
 - a. Not backward, didn't say those commandments
 - i. Lot of grammatical rules we could go over about the kind of adjectives, etc., but I don't want anyone to fall asleep and I might as well
 - b. Forward to the teaching he (Jesus) is about to say
 - c. Teaching that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (v.20)
 - d. Teaching that fulfills the law and prophets, down to the very last dot (v.17-18)
3. This
 - a. Commandments as come to us not through Moses
 - b. Interpreted by Jesus, God himself
 - c. Jesus and law
 - i. Said he didn't come to the law and prophets, but to fulfill them
 - ii. We are not just to understand it differently, but we are to live differently b/c of this new understanding
 1. New
 2. Revelation 21:5 (ESV)
And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
 3. Over and over again in the bible it says 'sing to the Lord a *new* song'
 - iii. We are to be a new creation
 1. Don't just not do it b/c the law prohibits
 2. Be a different person b/c you live in the spirit of the law
4. Jesus then goes into detail about what *this* really is
 - a. It is difficult
 - b. Crosses the line into meddling/stepping on toes
 - c. Get's into the disciples/our 'business'

Anger

1. That= Commandment 'You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'
2. This=But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.
3. Murder is the presenting issue

4. Anger is the underlying condition that needs to be addressed
 - a. Anger left unchecked might not culminate in Murder, but something dies because of it
 - b. James 1:14-15 ESV 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
 - c. Sin fully grown brings death= death of a relationship, death of a family, death of dreams, some kind of death
 - d. Story of Britt Beaver
5. Jesus tells us *This=Anger* and not *That=Murder* is the real problem
 - a. Anger is what fills us up and threatens to boil over
 - b. And when it boils over something dies
 - c. This is what followers of Christ need to address first
6. This is something that the church is well-equipped to help people navigate
 - a. v.23-26 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny
 - b. Jesus tells us we must be reconciled with our brothers and sisters
 - c. We must find peace
 - d. Peace with Britt Beaver
7. Communion
 - a. Great Thanksgiving begins, "Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another"
 - b. Go out of our way to explain all are welcome to the Table
 - c. Truth is not all are welcome
 - i. Those persons who have not earnestly repented of their sin and/or are not seeking to live in peace with others are not welcome
 - d. That hurts, stepping on toes
 - e. Had communion last week, didn't teach this b/c I didn't want to be standing up here holding the bread and the wine by myself and no one come
8. Solution
 - a. be reconciled, ask for forgiveness
 - i. Make that phone call
 - ii. Take that visit
 - b. truly repent
 - i. Romans 12:2 ESV
Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

9. Jesus says, "You have heard it said. . . "You shall not murder," but I say to you work on your anger and find a way to make peace even with your worst enemy."
 - a. This is what transforms the world

Relationships

1. That= 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'
2. This= 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
3. Jesus points not to the that= laws and actions around divorce
4. Jesus points to the this= person's motivations, person's heart, person's thoughts
 - a. Matthew 15:16-20 ESV 16 And he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person.
5. The Bible tells us that "the two shall become one"
 - a. Glue two pieces of wood together
 - b. What happens when you try to rip them apart?
 - c. Pieces stuck to each other
 - d. Not pretty
 - e. Same in divorce= things are broken and piece of the other person is stuck to you and vice versa
6. Not a "no divorce" guy or church
 - a. I am a product of that situation, Dad was divorced before he married my mom
 - b. Half-sister, seen the damage
7. Jesus says the action is not the problem, the thoughts and heart behind it
 - a. Marriage ceremony and counseling
8. Can't cover the whole subject in this amount of time

Dishonesty

1. That=33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'
2. This=34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil
3. Live in a time where honesty and truth-telling are no longer the norm
 - a. People swear to tell truth and blatantly lie
 - i. Court

- ii. Politics
 - iii. Media
 - iv. Church
 - b. Man's word is no longer assumed his honor
 - i. Sad
- 4. Jesus says this is an issue of Character
 - a. Sign in my weight room at school Who you are when nobody's watching
 - b. Not honest with ourselves how can we expect others to be honest with us
 - c. What happens when telling the truth is no longer an expectation?
 - d. No truth, no right or wrong, and no trust that people will honor their promises?
- 5. What Jesus is saying
 - a. Discipleship is less about what we do and more of who we are
 - i. "Be" last week
 - b. Pay close attention to what is on the inside
 - c. Motivations, heart, thoughts and feelings

Closing

- Good news= God knows we can't do *this* perfectly.
- We try, we pray,
- we work on healing anger through reconciliation
- work on relationships by doing unto others as we would have them do unto us
- Work on honoring our commitments
- Work on our spiritual selves
- Something that will be on going and working at it all our lives
- We will make mistakes
 - Convo with Jake this week
- Don't worry
 - Grace
 - Redemption
 - In Christ Jesus
- Questions
 - Are you angry?
 - How is your relationships?
 - Are you being honest?