**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— SESSION 5**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Homework for Matthew 5:21-32 — You Have Heard It Said, But I Say -- Part 1
SYS 11/06/24 EWH 11/13/24**

REVIEW
The body of Christ's sermon begins in Matthew 5:17 and proceeds into chapter 7. Though the transition from the introduction to the actual body seems abrupt, "...nevertheless, the discussion in the body of the sermon flows naturally out of the preceding material. Jesus closed the introduction by referring to good works that prompt others to glorify the heavenly Father." The body of the Sermon on the Mount begins with Christ clarifying the Law of God by emphasizing inner righteousness over outward form. *(Excerpts from Charles Quarles; Sermon on the Mount; pg. 89)*
INTRODUCTION
The sermon now begins to offer "a detailed description of the righteous conduct and character that motivates others to praise God." Jesus correctly interprets the ethical demands of Old Testament law, focusing on righteousness in the heart and mind rather than the outward, hypocritical form. "Jesus' teaching... surpassed the law by insisting that one should avoid sinful attitudes as well as sinful actions.." The phrase, *"You have heard it said, but I say..."* is repeated six times in verses 21-48 to show "...that the behavior of His followers is to be guided by God's own character rather than merely by His commands"  *(Ibid. pg. 89,106)*

READ Matthew 5:21-32

QUESTIONS

1. Murder was the third sin recorded in Scripture (Genesis 4:8). Many passages in Scripture reveal what God thinks about murder. Read over the following passages and summarize what the Bible teaches us about murder, and particularly comment on how pride can be considered a taproot of murder.

 a) From the Old Testament: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; 21:14; Numbers 35:9-34; Proverbs 6:16-19

 b) From the New Testament: Matthew 15:19; John 8:44; Acts 9:1; Romans 1:28-32; 13:8-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; James 2:10-12; 4:1-3

3. Reread Matthew 5:23-26 and compare with Romans 12:18. Has there ever been a time when you knew someone had ill feelings toward you or held a grudge against you? Perhaps you put up some defense or self-justification or simply chose to ignore the person. Yet God was calling you to humble yourself and obey His urgent command to reconcile with your brother or sister in the Lord. If this has happened, write down what you learned and whether you chose or chose not to follow through with God's command.

4. To apply, regarding internal feelings of anger, ask yourself these questions: 1) Simply because you have not committed murder, what is the state of your heart? 2) Do you react to things that happen in an ungodly way? 3) Do you ever flare into a raging temper when a person has said or done something to you? 4) Do you sometimes feel anger against a person who has done nothing to you at all? These are the types of things that God meant when He said, "Thou shall not kill." Write your thoughts below.

5. Reread Matthew 5:27-32. From the Blue Letter Bible, what is the meaning of *adultery*? Of *lust*?

6. Look carefully at 5:27-28. Understanding that Jesus was not altering the meaning of the Law ("*You shall not commit adultery*" Exodus 24:14) but rather correctly interpreting it, how would the Pharisees understand the command? How does Jesus' teaching differ from the Pharisees'?

7. Looking at vs. 29-30, how serious is it when a person neglects the state of his or her heart regarding the Law?

8. Other than the literal act of adultery, what are the three ways Christ taught that adultery could be committed?