



THE *Sermon* ON THE Mount

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BEYOND THE SURFACE Part 3

Throughout this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus repeatedly said, “You have heard that it was said... but I say to you.” He wasn’t changing the Law; He was revealing God’s true intent from the beginning. Scan the code to read, “The Purpose of the Law.”



1. Jesus takes us beyond the surface | Matthew 5:17–20

- Jesus didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it.
- Unlike the Pharisees, who were so focused on outward appearances that Jesus called them whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones, God is after our hearts, not just outward obedience.
- Matthew 5:20 *For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*
- In other words, unless your relationship with God goes deeper than just following religious rules and looking good on the outside, you'll never enter the kingdom of heaven.

2. Jesus takes Old Testament commandments and reveals their deeper meaning | Matthew 5:17-48

- Murder begins with anger and hatred.
- Adultery begins with lust in the heart.
- Revenge begins with a heart that wants to get even.
- Loving our neighbor extends even to loving our enemies.

3. Jesus isn't interested in merely changing outward behavior. He wants to transform the heart that produces that behavior.

- What takes place in our hearts shapes our attitudes, influences our thoughts, guides our decisions, and ultimately comes out in our words and actions.
- Proverbs 4:23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

4. **Only the Holy Spirit can change us from within | Ezekiel 36:26–27**

- We can work at controlling our behavior, but we can't produce a new heart just through willpower. That requires the power of the Spirit in us.
- Real transformation happens as we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit and He then transforms us at the root of our behavior. (Matthew 3:10)
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (reflect) the LORD'S glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the LORD, who is the Spirit.*

5. **Practically speaking...**

- **Realize** that the only thing you can do is change the outward behavior. It requires the Word and the Spirit to change me within by changing the root motivation. (Romans 12:2)
- **Give yourself** to the Holy Spirit for Him to transform you.
- **Replace** wrong attitudes with Kingdom responses. Romans 12:21 *Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.* The idea is not merely resisting evil (both in us and around us), but gaining victory over it. (Genesis 4:6-7)
- **Question:** Is there something in our hearts we've learned to live with that the Holy Spirit is asking us to surrender?

Prayer... *Holy Spirit, show me what I've allowed to remain in my heart that You want to change. I don't just want to act more like Jesus, I want to become more like Him.*