

Jesus

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“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matthew 4:17 (NLT)

5:20 “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Anger

*5:21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder...’²² But I say, if you are even **angry with someone**, you are subject to judgment!*

Lust

*5:27 “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say, anyone who even **looks at a woman with lust** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Family

*5:31 “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’³² But I say that a man who divorces his wife, **unless she has been unfaithful**, causes her to commit adultery.*

Integrity

*5:33 “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’³⁴ But I say, do not make any vows! ...³⁷ **Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’***

Retaliation

*5:38 “You have heard the law that says the **punishment must match the injury**: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹ But I say, **do not resist an evil person!***

Think Differently About Relationships

*5:43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘**Love your neighbor**’ and **hate your enemy**.⁴⁴ But I say, **love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!***

Generosity

*6:3 But **when you give**...⁴ **Give your gifts in private**, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”*

(Matthew 5:20 to 6:4)

1. Jesus' why: **The Kingdom of God**.
2. Jesus **distinguishes** between **our** point of view and **God's**.
 - Because they are not the **same**!
 - God's work in us is **not** skin-deep!
 - Clearly God's heart for us is **better**!
 - We are not as “**Good**” as we thought we were; no one in that crowd was. (Vs 20)

1. Our point of view is **costing** us more than we know.
 - Causing us and others **pain**.
 - Keeping us from **experiencing** the Kingdom of God.

CHALLENGE

- Is there something toxic I am playing with?
 - Is there something I am captive to?
 - NAME it: _____
2. “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”
 - Turn **away**.
 - Turn to **God**.
 - Thrive within your **freedom**.