

Jesus in His Own Words: Week 2
Learning to Handle the Ordinary Events of Daily Life
April 18, 2021
Matthew 5:17-20

Last Week: The Kingdom of Heaven is where what _____ wants done is done.
My kingdom is what I have say over, where what _____ want done is done.

“Heaven is a different place, a better place, a real place, a place where God rules and life is as God wants rather than as humanity has constructed.” – Dr. Amy-Jill Levine
Jesus is introducing us to the contrast between life as we _____ it and life as God _____ it.
Because of Jesus and Easter, we can live in _____ now and in the future.

This Week: How to Live in Heaven Right Here, Right Now

Jesus is setting up an ideal community with God as loving Father of us all;
replacing our family values with _____ values. Matthew 5:17-20 The Message

*“Jesus like other ancient rabbis, is providing guidelines for living into the kingdom, for revealing how God wants us to live, by ‘building a fence around the Torah’...as a fence around a house protects what is inside, so the fence around the Torah protects the commandments by creating the circumstances that make violation more difficult.”
– Dr. Levine*

Five Real Problems

1. Building a fence around _____: Matthew 5:21-24

If you _____ quickly, hardship or murder becomes less likely. Matthew 5:25-26
Jesus’ extension to include _____ words builds a fence around the Torah. Exodus 20:13
“If one is not angry, one is less likely to commit murder.” Dr. Levine

2. Building a fence around _____: Mathew 5:27-30

Jesus’ fence or extension cuts off _____ before it grows into adultery.
*“One: Don’t pick up the phone, You know he’s only callin’ cause he’s drunk and alone.
Two: Don’t let him in, You have to kick him out again...
I got new rules; I gotta tell them to myself.” – Dua Lipa*

“In Jesus’ time, a Jewish man could have sexual relations with a divorcee, a prostitute, or an otherwise unmarried and unengaged woman.” – Dr. Levine

3. Building a fence around _____: Matthew 5:31-32

The law was that a divorced woman, after _____, could not return to her first husband. *This was most likely for her protection.
Jesus’ words would make divorce less _____ to the men in power.
“It is _____ that God has called you.” 1 Corinthians 7:15

4. Building a fence against _____: Matthew 5:38-39a

How do we respond to humiliation? Three examples: Matthew 39b-42
1. Do not _____. 2. Do not _____. 3. Stand your ground and _____ in love.

5. Building a fence against limiting _____: Matthew 5:43-45

We don’t always _____ what we say or know to be right. Leviticus 19:18, 34
To love our enemies as ourselves requires that we do _____ love ourselves.
Our _____ are in God’s image, no matter how deformed that image has become.
Matthew 46-48

Action Step: Ask Jesus to show you how to pray for those who _____ you.