

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Psalms 59:16-17 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress. ¹⁷ O my strength, I will sing praises to You; for God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

Matthew 5:20 – Christ rejects Pharisaical righteousness - -

²⁰ “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the **kingdom of heaven**.”

Christ was referring to a literal earthly kingdom.

The origin of the King was heaven!

That kingdom will be ruled with heavenly principles!

Six examples that Christ uses from the Mosaic Law - -

1. Murder (**Matthew 5:21-26 cf. Exodus 20:13**) – the 6th Commandment
2. Adultery (**vv. 27-30 cf. Exodus 20:14**) – the 7th Commandment
3. Divorce (**vv. 31-32**)
4. Vows (**vv. 33-37**)
5. Vengeance (**vv. 38-42**)
6. Love (**vv. 43-47**)

Kingdom standard regarding Murder

Kingdom standard regarding Adultery

Kingdom standard regarding Divorce

Kingdom standard regarding Vows

Kingdom standard regarding Vengeance

Kingdom standard regarding Love

The EXCLAMATION point that Christ is teaching - -

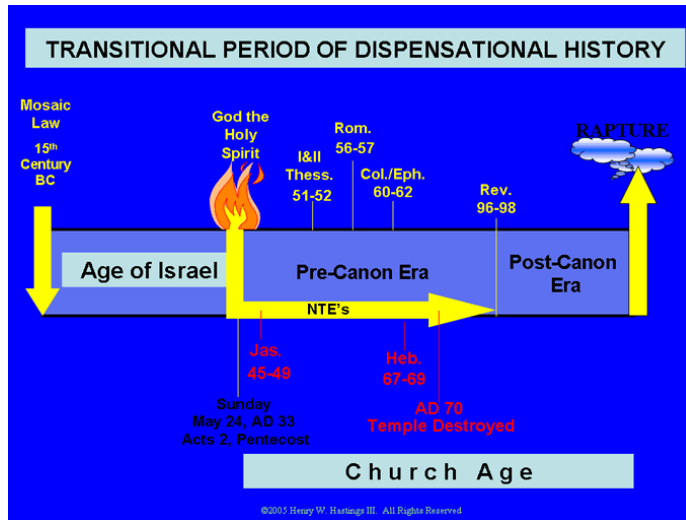
⁴⁸ **“Therefore** you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Christ raises the standards of the Pharisees to God’s perfect righteous standard.

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘**YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER**’ (Exodus 20:12-14 cf. Deuteronomy 16:18-20) and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’

The Law set forth the standard, or the expectation, of the life of the Israelite during the Age of Israel.



Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”

Compared with

Deuteronomy 16:18-20 "You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with **righteous judgment**. (19) "You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. (20) "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

1st Subject: Kingdom standard regarding Murder

- The Pharisees taught that as long as you did not murder someone, you were righteous before God.
- Kingdom standards require more than human works.

22 “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court;

- The Lord is referring to His judicial system; His court.

The charge is anger! “. . . everyone who is **angry**. . .”

πάς ὁ ὀργιζόμενος

- ✓ **πάς plus ὀργιζω** – a reference to being “enraged”
- ✓ The mental attitude state of anger is enough to find one guilty before the court of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Sin is not just an overt act, but also a mental attitude.

“. . . everyone **who is being enraged by** his brother. . .”

What he has done is inconsequential!

The issue is with the enraged one.

Why?

Because anger or rage sows the seed of murder

Sin starts in the soul!

- *Sins of the tongue* water the sin that has begun in the soul.

“... and whoever says to his brother, ‘you good-for-nothing’...”

- **ῥακά** - from רִיקָה **REYQAH** in the Hebrew – an abusive term that comes from the tongue due to anger.
Idiot!

“... shall be guilty before the Supreme Court; and whoever says, ‘You fool, [**Μωρέ** – *stupid*]' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell...”

- **τὴν γέενναν τοῦ πυρός** – a literal valley, adjacent to and to the south of Jerusalem, called Hinnom; a place where they burned all the trash. The fire perpetually burned there.
- This communicates to their frame of reference. If you are guilty of a mental attitude sin or a sin of the tongue, you can be sentenced to *Gehenna*, a fiery hell.

The **problem** this illustration demonstrates is the relative righteousness of mankind.

The **solution** is to trust in the work of Another - Jesus Christ – “. . . *believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. . .*”

The Lord’s condemning remarks in Matthew 5:22-23 are not directed at the use of *harsh language*.

Matthew 23:13-28 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

14 ["Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.]

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

16 "Woe to you, **blind guides**, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, *that* is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.'

17 "You **fools** and **blind men!** Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?

25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of **robbery** and **self-indulgence**.

26 "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of **dead men's bones** and all **uncleanness**.

28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of **hypocrisy** and **lawlessness**.

- The Lord, Himself, has just unleashed some harsh language on the Pharisees. . .
 - ✓ Hypocrites
 - ✓ Fools
 - ✓ Blind men
 - ✓ Snakes
 - ✓ Brood of vipers

Matthew 23:33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell [*Gehenna*]?"

The Lord’s condemning remarks are based on the attitude behind the *harsh language*.

He cleansed the temple with a whip, driving out the money changers, because zeal for His Father’s house consumed Him (**John 2:13-25**).

- Was He guilty before the Law of any mental attitude or overt sin at that point?
✓ **NO**
- There is an anger that leads to murder and sins of the tongue and that type of anger must be distinguished from vehemence of soul.
- Righteous indignation is not sin!

One can be intensely disgusted and be in fellowship *as opposed to* being enraged at his fellowman which will water the seed of murder.

It is the latter which is sin before God.

- Mental attitude sin that results in a sin of the tongue
- The sin will eventually result in murder.

Matthew 5:23-26 will deal with reconciliation prior to any effective worship!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.