

Beyond Surface Faith

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Matthew 5:21-32

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1 Series began with **From Dark to Different**—are we different? **Different on Purpose**—are we talking and walking different—on purpose? **From Change to Calling**—have we corrected what God calls us to change?

2 **Character of the Called**—is a change in our general *conduct*. **Living Ready in a Dark World**—means we have focused on being ready for a split-second event that will give us no time to change anything at that moment in time.

3 Jesus goes **Beyond Surface Faith**—to living, learning, and loving God so we gladly do what He calls us to do.

4 Our outward way of acting must **Matthew 5:20 exceed** and **greatly surpass** surface religious talk. If we do not have God's love in our heart—ready to forgive, willing to pray for others, and faithfully trusting Him each day—we will not **“enter into the kingdom of heaven.”**

5 Entering the Kingdom requires *genuine faith* and *total trust* on God. Just *hearing* the Word is not enough; *calling* ourselves a Christian is not enough; *surface* faith is not enough!

It takes *obedience to God* and *putting the Words of Jesus' sermon into practice*.

6 Jesus knows what is required for Heaven—He paid our entrance fee—so our part in this vital issue is—**AV Matthew 12:50** **“Do the will of my Father which is in heaven.”** His sermon tells us of a **new way of a changed heart**.

7 **NKJV Matthew 5:21** **“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’**

8 **22** **“But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.”**

9 Most people do not deliberately harm others, but Jesus goes further **“Whoever is angry with his brother is in danger of the judgment.”**

10 He takes anger to another level. We might not *take* someone's life, but we often have no problem marring someone's reputation.

11 Murder does not begin with a weapon but with *resentment* in the heart.

12 The word **Raca** is used only once in the Bible—and is a very derogatory term that shows utter contempt for someone.

13 Taking a life begins with holding a grudge. We either *forgive and join the light* or *resent and join the dark*. **Jeremiah 17:10** **“I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins.”**

14 A person can sit in church and hold resentment in their heart. It is device of Satan to defile our conscience and hinder spiritual growth.

15 **Matthew 5:23** **“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,**

16 **24** **“leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to [make**

friends with WEY] your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

17 If we are serious about being **different on purpose**, then we treat others **differently on purpose**. We are called by God to reconcile differences and be ready to forgive—it should be *first thing* on our mind. Different on **purpose** is changing by **intention**.

18 **Matthew 5:25** **“Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.**

19 **26** **“Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.”**

20 If feeling resentful about what someone did, we first repent before God and ask Him to forgive us.

21 Then we can let the person know we are sorry for the way we acted and are asking God to help us put the matter behind us.

22 Grudges can last for years with the world, and some are never resolved.

23 It is rare for unbelievers to repent and reconcile with the other party—but we are to be *salt and light in a dark world*—making amends as soon as possible.

24 The dark side of the world is fueled by anger and insulting remarks. Social media thrives on them, and news agencies look for them.

25 **NKJV Matthew 5:27** **“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’**

26 **28** **“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”**

27 It was said back **then** but Jesus tells us **now** that being scriptural morally in our relationships

goes ***Beyond Surface Faith***. Immoral sins can begin with a glance and a thought.

28 Today's culture is saturated with visual temptation; phones in pockets; Web pages; and streaming platforms with no filters. The world says, *I'm not harming anyone*, but Jesus says *you are hindering your eternal life*.

29 ***From Change to Calling*** means God did not *call us* to just *avoid* scandal but to *reflect* godliness.

30 Adulterous thoughts reduce *covenant to convenience!* Jesus uses extreme words to emphasize serious issues—and the serious *action* we should take to remain in God's will.

31 **Matthew 5:29** *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

32 **30** *"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."*

33 We are ***Called*** to pursue purity of heart and holiness of character. If our phone causes us to stumble—change how we use it; If our streaming service feeds temptation—cancel it. If a relationship causes temptation—create distance.

34 We should not live a ***godly life publicly*** and an ***ungodly life privately***.

35 To change attitudes the world says: *Try harder; ask for help*; but the key is **Psalm 51:11** *"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."*

36 The Sermon on the Mount is a *mirror* to show our need for a *changed* heart with the help of the Spirit. **Ezekiel 36:26** *"A new heart also will I give you."*

37 Jesus emphasizes the importance of the life-time commitment in marriage.

38 With the world, moral issues are confused, commercialized, and celebrated without boundaries—but the believer shines the light of truth on covenant faithfulness.

39 **AV Matthew 5:31** *"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:*

40 **32** *But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."*

41 The world treats marriage as disposable; promises conditional; vows can be broken; commitments only if feelings cooperate—but Jesus underscores covenant seriousness and He elevates the sacredness of marriage vows.

42 ***Different on Purpose*** compares a Christian marriage to our commitment to Christ. The apostle saw **Revelation 21:1** *"a new heaven and a new earth;"* and **2** *"the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."*

43 Christian marriage is a commitment between husband and wife as long as they both shall live on earth or until Jesus returns.

44 **Ephesians 5:25** *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."*

45 ***Living Ready in a Dark World*** includes honoring commitments—and marriage is a promise to be faithful. A husband makes a life-long commitment to his bride like Jesus entered a covenant relationship with His people.

46 Marriage on earth is a shadow of a reality in Heaven—it will be the ultimate union of Christ and His people.

47 We are presently followers of the Lord Jesus and will permanently be joined to Him in an eternal commitment.

48 As we move toward a future wedding **Revelation 21:2**—a New Jerusalem: *"prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."*

49 The story of redemption here on earth ends—and we anticipate the heavenly celebration in Paradise.

50 The church is the *bride*, and we live as one with Jesus. **AV Galatians 3:26** *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* We have *"put on Christ"* so *"ye are all one in Christ Jesus"* **27, 28.**

51 In the meantime, we pursue purity of heart, holiness of character, and grow in our love for Jesus and others.

52 **Revelation 19:7** *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."*

53 **22:20** *"Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."*



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