

## Living in the Kingdom of God

Jesus came declaring that “The Kingdom of the Heavens” is “*at hand*.” It is present and available! What does this mean? As we invite Jesus to reign and rule in us, being the “King” of our “kingdom,” we find that he changes us from the “inside out.” Instead of just trying to “*do good*,” we “*become good*.”

- **Day One - Read Matthew 5:21-26**

Everyone knows that murder is wrong. What does Jesus say about hatred as “murder in the heart?” Why is this detrimental to healthy relationships?

**Pray** – Ask God to help you in your conflicts with people to not only “not kill them,” but to seek forgiveness, blessing, and reconciliation.

- **Day Two - Read Matthew 5:27-32**

Everyone knows that adultery is wrong. What does Jesus say about lust as “adultery” in the heart? How is this harmful to healthy relationship?

Jesus said that there was something better than just divorcing “legally,” there was the commitment to stay married and work it out.

**Pray** – Ask God to help you remain strong against lust, and remain true to your marriage and look for ways to build it and make it stronger.

- **Day Three - Read Matthew 5:33-37**

Others may need us to “swear,” or sign a contract,” so they can trust us. We should not, however, need these things to be trustworthy! Our word should be enough, with or without a “contract.”

**Pray** – Ask God to help you be a trustworthy person.

## What will Be Your Action Steps?

New Life Lessons  
June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Pastor Ron Salsbury

## “Doing Good vs. Becoming Good”

The Sermon on the Mount #4

Matthew 5:21-48

**Matthew 5:43-45a, 48** (NLT) <sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> **But I say,** love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45a</sup> In that way, **you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.**

Matthew 7:28-29

<sup>48</sup> **You are to be perfect,** even as your Father in heaven is perfect. *teleios - “mature/complete/whole”*

**MIND**

**HEART/SPIRIT**

**BODY**

*Our Beliefs/Thoughts*

*Our Will/Our Choice*

*Our Actions/Feelings*

**Matthew 5:20** “Unless **your righteousness surpasses** that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

*dikaioisune - “true inner goodness and character”*

- **The Action of the Holy Spirit**

**John 3:5** (NLT) <sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, “I assure you, **no one can enter the Kingdom of God** without being **born of water and the Spirit**.” Romans 8:10-13; Galatians 5:22-25; 1 Corinthians 3:7

- **The Ordinary Events of Life**

**James 1:3** (NLT) <sup>3</sup> **When your faith is tested,** your endurance has a chance to grow. Romans 5:3-5; 8:28

- **Well Planned Effort** (*Spiritual Disciplines*)

**1 Timothy 4:7b** <sup>7b</sup> **Train yourself to be godly.** 2 Timothy 2:22

*“A discipline is an activity within our power that enables us to accomplish what we cannot do by direct effort.”*

- Dallas Willard

## **“Doing Good vs. Becoming Good”**

*Goodness (dikaiousune) in “Real Life”*

### **1. Anger & Contempt** (vs. 21-26)

**Matthew 5:21-22a** (NIV) <sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, '**Do not murder**, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22a</sup> **But I tell you** that anyone who is **angry with his brother** will be subject to judgment." *orgizō – “enraged, violent passion”*

**Ephesians 4:2** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and **gentle**; be patient, bearing with one another in love. *makrothymia*

**Matthew 5:22b** <sup>22b</sup> "Again, anyone who says to his brother, '**Raca**,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, '**You fool!**' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

*No Murder vs. Resolution of Conflict ,  
without Rage or Contempt .*

### **2. Lust & Adultery** (vs. 27-30)

**Matthew 5:27-28** (NIV) <sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, '**Do not commit adultery.**' <sup>28</sup> **But I tell you** that anyone who **looks at a woman lustfully** has **already committed adultery** with her **in his heart**." Luke 7:44 (Jesus and the sinful woman) at the Pharisee's house, "*Do you see this woman?*"

*No Intercourse vs. No Cultivation of Lust.*

**Job 31:1** (NLT) <sup>1</sup> "I made a **covenant with my eyes** not to **look with lust** at a **young woman**." 2 Peter 2:14; Matthew 5:29

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-4** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should **learn to control his own body** in a way that is **holy** and **honorable**. 1 Corinthians 9:27 *hypōpiazō*

**2 Corinthians 10:5b** (NIV) <sup>5b</sup> We **take captive every thought** to **make it obedient to Christ**. Philippians 4:7-8

### **3. Marriage & Commitment** (vs. 31-32)

**Matthew 5:31-32** (NIV) <sup>31</sup> "It has been said, '**Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.**' <sup>32</sup> **But I tell you** that anyone who **divorces his wife**, except for marital unfaithfulness, **causes her to become an adulteress**, and **anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery**." Deuteronomy 24:1-4 "*Something indecent*"

**Matthew 19:8** (NIV) <sup>8</sup> Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because **your hearts were hard**. But it was not this way from the beginning." 1 Corinthians 7:7-17

*Divorcing “Legally” vs. No Divorce  
as Then Practiced .*

*Divorce TO Remarry vs. Divorce then (in time) Remarry*

**Pastor Ron's personal opinion:** The "*Hardness of Heart*" Principle of Jesus allows for divorce in cases where a continuation of the marriage would bring greater harm (Abuse & Abandonment). It must be applied carefully and prayerfully in submission to spiritual authority. Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:7-17; Matthew 18:15-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14

**Matthew 19:26** (NIV) <sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but **with God all things are possible**." 2 Corinthians 9:8; John 13:34; Romans 12:1

### **4. Trust & Truthfulness** (vs. 33-37)

**Matthew 5:33-34a, 37a** (NIV) <sup>33</sup> "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, '**Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.**' <sup>34a</sup> **But I tell you, Do not swear at all...** <sup>37a</sup> **Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'.**"

*“Swearing On/By” Something vs.  
Being Truthful and Trustworthy.*

*You should not need a contract to make you trustworthy!*