

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE



## “Studies in Righteousness”- PREACHED ON APRIL 27 & 28, 2024

### READ

Read Matthew 5:1-48. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day. (A great resource for looking at various translations is [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)).

### DISCUSS

What stood out to you as you continued to read last week’s passages and psalm 119? Were you able to practice obeying a command? What did you learn about yourself in the process?

### STUDY

In this section of scripture, Jesus uses strong language and metaphor to communicate the gravity of his message. It’s not enough to not murder, but you should avoid anger as well. Jesus uses extremes to make his points about a variety of topics. If our eyes are causing us to stumble, we must pluck them out. When the heart is not right, drastic action is needed to correct it before it results in outward sin. What does this mean for us? It means that we must ruthlessly work to eliminate sources of temptation from our lives as we continue to pursue Christ.

1. This last section of chapter five is full of contrasts of what has been “said” by the pharisees and what Jesus is teaching. List all of these with your group.
2. John Stott writes that, “we might wonder if there has ever been a generation in which this teaching of Jesus were more needed or more obviously applicable than our own, in which the river of filth is so accessible...” We live in a world brimming with temptations. Identify some places in your own life that lead you temptation. What would it look like to eliminate them as dramatically as cutting off your own arm?
3. The Ten Commandments laid out in Exodus were intended to be a moral law and a civil law for the nation of Israel. Look at Exodus 21-23—where do you see laws that belong in a civil court? The pharisees of Jesus’s time took these civil codes and applied them to personal relationships. Jesus taught that we are to base our personal relationships in love, not in judgement. How does this week’s reading in Matthew 5:33-48 impact your understanding of retaliation in relationships?

### PRACTICE

Jesus talks a lot about how to love those we struggle with in this section of the sermon on the mount. Spend each day this week praying specifically for someone you have a hard time getting along with, with someone who’s your enemy. Focus on how your heart may change in doing so.