



Tough Relationships

Series: *The Sermon On The Mount*, #6

Matthew 5:21-26

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Theme: **Radical Righteousness Moves You Toward Right Relationships.**

Radical righteousness leads you to respect the person as well as the person's life.

1. The letter of the Law prohibits murder.
(21; see also Genesis 1:27, 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12)
2. The spirit of the Law prescribes respect for others.
(22; see also Leviticus 19:17-18; Ephesians 4:26-27; 1 John 3:15)

Radical righteousness moves you to take the initiative to be right with others.

1. Your relationship with others affects your relationship with God.
(23-24; see also Romans 12:18; 1 Peter 3:7)
2. There is an urgency and great importance in taking the initiative.
(24; see also 5:9; James 4:17; Psalm 66:18)

Radical righteousness compels you to settle differences quickly.

1. When you realize your error, settle quickly. (25)
2. If you fail to settle quickly, don't expect a miracle from God.
(25-26; see also 1 Peter 4:15)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. God gives us complete righteousness through Jesus Christ. This *radical righteousness* will be evident in every area of our lives as we are faithful to God. Read 5:21-26, where Jesus gives us details and examples of what this means in our relationships. Evaluate the quality of your attitudes, comments and actions toward others ... the quality of your relationships.

Tuesday. Anger and verbal abuse toward others shows a lack of respect for people created in the image of God. Review 5:21-22 again, and any notes you made on Sunday. List your weak spots—sensitive situations and circumstances—for anger and lack of respect. Ask God to help you recognize and overcome this sin.

Wednesday. Read 5:23-24. Do you realize that your relationships with others affects your relationship with God? Think through your relationships. Is there any one who holds something against you? Have you, are you taking the initiative in the situation?

Thursday. In 5:25-26 Jesus tells us to quickly settle any differences which are our fault and, if we don't, not to expect God to miraculously make the problem and consequences disappear. Are there problems with others hanging around for which you are responsible? Confess them to God, the other person, and move to get them on the road to resolution *today*.

Friday – Saturday. Sunday we plan to take the next section in the Sermon on the Mount, 5:27-32, that deals with radical righteousness and sin. Read and think through these verses in preparation for our time together.