

FROM “LIVING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A PRACTICAL HOPE FOR GRACE AND DELIVERANCE,” BY GLEN H. STASSEN

Concluding chapter five of the sermon, after learning the attributes of one who fully participates in “reign of God,” the Beatitudes, Jesus tells the importance of our role:

In 5:13-16 Jesus tells us that to cultivate the ability to participate in the Reign of God makes us flavor the and light to this otherwise tasteless and dark world.

In 5:17-20 Jesus reminds us that the importance of the laws and the Prophets and assures us that he is not here to weaken, but here to fulfill the message. And anyone who tries to weaken the message will, themselves, not be participants in the Kingdom.

The chapter ends with him telling us how to deal our own reality, given who and what we are. Note the difference between the following and the ten commandments.

Practicing Reconciliation and keeping our covenants (Chapter 4)

Traditional Righteousness	Diagnosis of Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
Matt. 5:21: You have heard that it was said to those of ancient time, “You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgement.	5:22: But I say to you that everyone being angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council, and whoever says “You fool!” will be liable to hell of fire.	5:23-26: So if you are offering your gift at the alter, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there . . . and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then coming, offer your gift. Make friends quickly with your accuser
Matt. 5:27: you have heard tat it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”	5:28: But I say . . . that everyone looking at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.	5:29: If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 5:30: And if your right hand . . .
Matt. 5:31: It was also said, whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce	5:32: But I say . . . anyone who divorces his wife, except on the grounds of unchastity causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.	

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Telling the Truth, Making Peace, Loving Our Enemies (Chapter 5)

Traditional Righteousness	Diagnosis of Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
<p>Matt. 5:33: Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “you shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.”</p>	<p>5:34-36: But I say to you, not to swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black</p>	<p>5:37: Let your word be “yes, yes” or “No, no”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.</p>
<p>Matt. 5:38: You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”</p>	<p>5:39: But I say to you, not to retaliate revengefully by evil means..</p>	<p>5:40-42: But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if any one wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile, Give to one who begs from you, and do not refuse one who would borrow from you.</p>
<p>Matt. 5:43 You have heard that it was said: “you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”</p>	<p>5:46-47: For if you love those who love you, what reward have you, do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?</p>	<p>5:44-45: But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.</p>

If we want to continue our study of the sermon on the Mount, this is the book I recommend.