

Creekside Community Church  
Return of the King: The Gospel of Matthew  
June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
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### **The Heart of Obedience, Obedience from the Heart: Matthew 5:17-48**

- 1. The Heart of the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)**
- 2. The Heart of Anger (Matthew 5:21-26)**
- 3. The Heart of Fidelity (Matthew 5:27-32)**
- 4. The Heart of Integrity (Matthew 5:33-37)**
- 5. The Heart of Love (Matthew 5:38-48)**

**For further thought and discussion:**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What routine task do you perform with the worst heart-attitude (i.e. a task you do faithfully, but begrudgingly and joylessly)?

#### **Going Deeper**

2. What is Jesus' main point about the Old Testament in Matthew 5:17-20? Does Jesus intend to abolish the Old Testament Law? Does he intend to keep it completely intact? What is Jesus saying about his relationship to the Law? What does this reveal about his authority?
3. Jesus says, "*you've heard it said...but I say to you*" six times in this passage (vv. 21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44). What misunderstandings about the Old Testament is Jesus' correcting? Where would Jesus' audience have gotten these misconceptions?

**Application:**

4. What misunderstandings about murder does Jesus correct in 5:21-26? What, according to Jesus, is the solution to murderous anger (5:23-26)? How does Jesus' teaching challenge you personally?
5. What misunderstandings about adultery and divorce does Jesus correct in 5:27-32? How did the Jews of Jesus' day view divorce? How does Jesus' teaching challenge you?
6. What misunderstandings about integrity does Jesus correct in 5:33-37? Is Jesus prohibiting believers from ever making vows (cf. Deuteronomy 10:20; Romans 1:9; 2 Corinthians 1:23; Hebrews 6:17)? If not, what's the thrust of his teaching? How does Jesus' teaching challenge you personally?
7. What misunderstandings about retaliation does Jesus correct in 5:38-42? Jesus applies his teaching to the realm of personal insults (v. 39), legal disputes (v. 40), onerous government officials (v. 41), and economics (v. 42). In which of these areas do you find Jesus' teaching most challenging? Why? What misunderstandings about neighbor-love does Jesus correct in vv. 43-48? What do you find most challenging about this teaching?
8. What is Jesus' expectation for his followers (5:48)? How does Jesus' teaching expose our need for a greater righteousness (i.e. one outside of ourselves), and point us to the gospel (see Matthew 5:17; compare with 5:3; 3:15; Philippians 3:1-11)?