

HARMONY IN THE HOME: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Part 3)

Introduction

1. Two ways to live: put God's authority & will over man, or put man's desires over God
 - a. Constant battle has impact on the individual, the church, & the family
2. Christ introduced his new kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)
 - a. Kingdom of God (of heaven, of Christ): rule for our salvation, realm of fellowship with God
3. **Matt. 5** Conduct in the kingdom
 - a. Be truthful in speech
 - b. Seek no revenge
 - c. Love your enemy
 - d. Pray together
 - e. Forgive one another
 - f. Avoid wrong judgments
 - g. Practice the golden rule

I. Conduct in the Kingdom

A. Be Truthful in Speech

1. **Matt. 5:33-37** Always tell the truth
2. Moses' Law: if take oath in God's name, must keep it
3. Jews' loophole: swear without God's name, permitted to lie
4. Jesus taught total honesty: tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth—always!
5. Destroy trust in the home if use loopholes & lies:
 - a. Use of funds
 - b. Whereabouts
 - c. Drink
 - d. Gamble
 - e. Pornography
 - f. Secret friendg. Adultery
 - i. Other sins
6. Total honesty in speech, integrity, transparency build trust & security in the home—harmony!

B. Seek No Revenge

1. **Matt. 5:38-42** Show restraint & goodwill when provoked
2. Moses' Law administered civil justice
3. Christ's law: use goodwill & restraint when provoked by slights, insults, embarrassments, inconveniencies, & minor injustices or injuries
4. If mates use revenge & retaliation: destroy peace & harmony
5. If mates use goodwill & restraint when provoked: harmony in the home!

C. Love Your Enemy

1. **Matt. 5:43-48** Imitate God's love for His enemies
2. When abused & treated as an enemy, do not hate but love, bless, do good, & pray for him
 3. Returning good for wrongs: harmony!

D. Pray Together

1. **Matt. 6:5-13** How to pray
2. Prayer draws us closer to God & to each other
3. Praying together binds up our wounds; hard to be angry & abusive if pray
4. Prayer puts our lives & marriage into God's providential hands—promotes harmony in the home!

E. Forgive One Another

1. **Matt. 6:14-15** Be merciful & kind to forgive while asking God to forgive
2. Anger, harsh words, resentment, & refusal to ask or give forgiveness destroy peace & harmony
3. Apologies & forgiveness restore peace & harmony!

F. Avoid Wrong Judgments

1. **Matt. 7:1-5** Do not judge hypocritically or hyper-critically
2. Root of such judging: pride, self-righteousness
3. Result: emotional wounds, depression, alienation of mates
4. If avoid such judging: more harmony!

G. **Matt. 7:12** Treat Others as We Wish to be Treated

1. Desire compliments or bitter criticism?
2. Desire encouragement or discouragement?
3. Desire companionship or alienation?
4. Desire mercy or harsh, abusive treatment?
5. Rule based on unselfishness, consider nature & needs of mate—promotes harmony in the home!

Conclusion

1. Two ways to live: God's will OR man's will
2. Christ introduced his new kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)
3. **Matt. 5** Conduct in the kingdom
 - a. Be truthful in speech
 - b. Seek no revenge
 - c. Love your enemy
 - d. Pray together
 - e. Forgive one another
 - f. Avoid wrong judgments
 - g. Practice the golden rule
4. **Jn. 3:5** Begin new life, enter the kingdom
 - a. Born of water: submit in water baptism
 - b. ...and of the Spirit: gave the gospel