Lesson Seven: But I Say to You

*(extracted from His Name is Jesus by Jack Hayford)*

1. **JESUS AND THE LAW**

*Read Matthew 5:17-20 and note the following:*

1. Because Jesus’ interpretation of the Law is so different from that of the Pharisees and religious leaders of His day, what do many Jews apparently think Jesus is doing? (v. 17)
2. What has He come to do with the Law and the Prophets? (v. 17)
3. Jesus reiterates His commitment to fulfill the Law by stating what? (v. 18)
4. Jesus sees a negative and positive response to His understanding of God’s commandments. What are they? (v. 19)
5. Getting to the heart of the matter, how does Jesus sum up what He has been saying? (v. 20)
6. **THE BEATITUDES**

*Read Matthew 5:3-12.*

1. List the nine categories of those who are blessed (vv. 3-11).
2. List why each is blessed (vv. 3-11).
3. The ninth beatitude concludes with a parenthetical expansion that puts persecution into a larger framework. What is that framework? (v. 12)
4. **DISCIPLESHIP**

*Read Matthew 5:13-16.*

1. To what does Jesus liken His disciples? (v. 13)
2. Why is it so important that we live out the kingdom life within ourselves? (v. 13)
3. What is Jesus’ second metaphor? (v. 14)
4. What is the purpose of light? (v. 15)
5. What is Jesus’ exhortation? (v. 16)
6. **ON MURDER**

*Read Matthew 5:21-26.*

1. According to Exodus 21:12-14, what is “the judgment” to which Jesus refers? (v. 21)
2. What is the real problem behind murder? (v. 22)
3. So important is dealing with anger that it is even to take precedence over what? (vv. 23-24)
4. **ON ADULTERY**

*Read Matthew 5:27-32.*

1. Where is the root of the sin of adultery? (v. 28)
2. How does this root attitude manifest itself? (v. 28)
3. What is Jesus’ solution to this problem? (vv. 29-30)
4. **ON DIVORCE**

*Read Matthew 5:31-32.*

1. Jesus’ reference in verse 31 is to Deuteronomy 24:1-4. What seems to be the purpose behind Moses’ instructions?
2. According to Jesus in Matthew 19:8, why did Moses give these divorce regulations? With what are these regulations in tension?
3. What is Jesus’ one specifically stated basis for biblically sanction divorce? (Matthew 5:32; see 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 for another given by Paul.)
4. Divorces that are not biblically legal result in what? (Matthew 5:32)
5. **ON OATHS**

*Read Matthew 5:33-37.*

1. What is Jesus’ point? (v. 37; see James 5:12)
2. Any form of untruthfulness finds its origin in whom? (v. 37)
3. Old Testament oaths were binding because they were sworn in the LORD’s (Yahweh’s) name. What were people apparently doing to skirt responsibility for carrying out oaths? (vv. 34-36)
4. **ON RETALIATION**

*Read Matthew 5:38-42.*

1. What is to be our attitude toward *demanding* personal rights? (v. 39)
2. By way of illustrating these attitudes, Jesus gives two examples to unreasonable requests. What is to be our attitude if we unjustifiably lose a legal battle, or if someone presses us to do something unreasonable? (vv. 40, 41)
3. What is to be our attitude when someone wants something from us that may inconvenience us, especially financially? (v. 42)
4. **ON LOVING ONE’S ENEMIES**

*Read Matthew 5:43-48.*

1. What is Jesus’ concern? (v. 43)
2. What is Jesus’ startling statement? (v. 44; see 5:10-12)
3. Loving behavior toward one’s enemies is really what? (v.45)
4. How does Jesus illustrate His point? (vv. 46-47)
5. What is Jesus’ conclusion? (v. 48)
6. **RELIGIOUS PRACTICES**

*Read Matthew 6:1-4 and note the following:*

1. What happens when someone practices charitable deed *before men?* (v. 1)
2. Citing religious fanfare, Jesus notes that doing charitable deeds before men is self-glorifying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2).
3. What is to be the Christian’s *heart attitude* when doing acts of mercy or kindness? (vv. 3-4)
4. **THE DISCIPLE AND WEALTH**

*Read Matthew 6:19-24 and note the following:*

1. Committed discipleship requires what? (vv. 19-20; Luke 12:16-21)
2. Where we invest our greatest energies is an expression of what? (v. 21)
3. If one’s eye is good, e.g., if a disciple’s focus is Godward and not wealthward, what will that Christian’s life be like? (v. 22)
4. If one’s eye is bad, e.g., focus is wealthward rather than Godward, what will that Christian’s life be like? (v. 23)
5. Jesus concludes by stating that partially committed, or part-time, discipleship is impossible (v. 24; Matthew 10:34-39; 16:24-226). Why?
6. **THE DISCIPLE AND ANXIETY**

*Read Matthew 6:25-34 and note the following:*

1. Why should disciples not worry about basic subsistence? (v. 25)
2. What must be realized to prevent inordinate anxiety about physical needs? (v. 26, 32)
3. What is the disciple’s top priority? What results from adopting that priority? (v. 33)
4. God has not only the present under control but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well (v. 34)
5. **DO NOT JUDGE**

*Read Matthew 7:1-5.*

1. What is Jesus’ prohibition? (v.1)
2. What will happen if one assumes this judgmental attitude? (v. 1-2, see Romans 2:1)
3. Why are self-righteous, censorious critics unhelpful among Christ’s disciples? (vv. 3-5)
4. What enables a disciple to speak to (judge) the shortcomings in other disciples? (v. 5; see 1 Corinthians 11:31; Galatians 6:1)
5. Lest His disciples lose all discernment and their sense of “healthy judging,” Jesus reminds them of what they are to do when they encounter resistance or hostility toward the gospel. What is the command? (v. 6; see Matthew 10:13-14)
6. THE GOLDEN RULE
7. What is the scope of our deeds of love? (Matthew 7:12)
8. When a disciple does good deeds, what is reflected? (Matthew 7:11)
9. As Jesus’ disciples obey this commandment, what are they fulfilling?
10. **TWO WAYS**

*Read Matthew 7:13-14 and note the following:*

1. To what two things does Jesus liken the rigors of committed discipleship? (v. 14)
2. Are committed disciples the majority or minority? (v. 14)
3. Though discipleship is rigorous, why s it worth the rigors? (v. 14)
4. **THE GENUINE AND THE FALSE**

*Read Matthew 7:15-23.*

1. False prophets look like the people of God, but what are they? (v. 15)
2. How can we detect them? (vv. 16-18, 20)
3. What is their final fate if they do not repent? (v. 19)
4. Jesus illustrates what He has taught by referring to people making impressive claims. What are their claims? (v. 23)
5. What is Jesus’ response to their claims? (v. 23)
6. Though claiming impressive ministry, they have something fundamental missing in their lives. What is it? (v. 21)
7. **THE PARABLE OF TWO BUILDERS**

*Read Matthew 7:24-29 and note the following:*

1. In light of the Sermon, what makes a man wise? (v. 24; see James 1:22-25)
2. Why does this person survive? (v. 25)
3. What is the multitude’s overall response to the Sermon and why? (vv. 28-29)