Lesson Text: Matthew 5:21-32

King James Version (KJV)

I. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST MURDER (Matthew 5:21-26)

21. Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24. Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

25. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.
26. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

II. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ADULTERY (Matthew 5:27-30)

27. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28. But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

III. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DIVORCE (Genesis 5:31-32)
31. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32. But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

New International Version (NIV)

I. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST MURDER (Matthew 5:21-26)

21. “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’

22. But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23. “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24. leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be
reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

25. “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.

26. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

II. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ADULTERY (Matthew 5:27-30)

27. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

28. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.
III. JESUS AND THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DIVORCE (Genesis 5:31-32)

31. “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’

32. But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

PRACTICAL POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. If our actions don’t condemn us before God, our hearts surely do (Matthew 5:21).

2. We allow anger to fester at our own peril (Matthew 5:22).

3. Our relationship with God suffers if we don’t seek reconciliation with our neighbor (Matthew 5:23-24).

4. When possible, we should be willing to compromise in a dispute (Matthew 5:25-26).

5. The sin of adultery is more than the act, it includes what’s
in the heart (Matthew 5:27-28).

6. We must remove anything in our lives that tempts us to sin (Matthew 5:29-30).

7. The Law only allowed divorce therefore, the results can cause everyone involved to sin (Matthew 5:31-32).