WHO IS THE ENEMY

MATTHEW 5.21-26

A MATTER OF THE HEART

Matthew 5:21-22a | Not Behavior, HEART. Jesus is making it clear: *behavior* is not the standard, but rather what is happening on the *inside*.

Matthew 5:22b | Merely using euphemisms doesn't solve the problem: *it is a matter of the heart.* There are no loopholes! In fact, Jesus amplifies *His* language, moving from "judgment" to the "fires of hell"!

Dig Deeper: Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 2:8, 7:20-23; Luke 6:43-45; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Timothy 1:5

Matthew 5:17 | Not Religion, FAITH. Here we are defining "religion" as a set of practices by which people *think* they honor God. Jesus says, "go and be reconciled" and *then* do your religious practices. He is forcing us to consider: what is actually important? This reminds us of how our *vertical* relationship (God pours out His grace upon us) informs and empowers us for our *horizontal* relationships (that grace becomes a river which flows out).

Dig Deeper: Romans 12

Ephesians 6:12 | Faith is taking the world on God's terms. Trusting His Word about everything. His testimony to us: those who *are* the enemy distract us, deceive us, and seek to destroy us, getting us confused about who is the enemy. They convince us to hurt one another when Jesus is calling us to love one another.

Dig Deeper: John 10:7-11; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Peter 5:7-11; James 4:1-10; 1 John 3:7-10

Matthew 5:3 | Before God, we have NOTHING to offer. We are made righteous by what JESUS does! We are BLESSED, which means SAVED. He sets us free *so that* we can love our neighbor. **We take what we've been given and share it.**

Dig Deeper: Romans 3:28, 4:13-15, Galatians 3:1-14