

# PART 4... MURDER, SHE WROTE

## Introduction – When God Opens His Mouth

Genesis 1:26-27; John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2; Matthew 5:17-20

### JESUS THOUGHT:

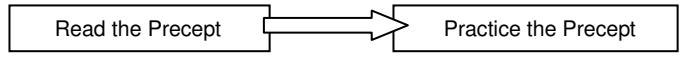
Jesus says the Torah (religious Law) cannot be rightly understood or properly applied apart from \_\_\_\_\_.

### IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:

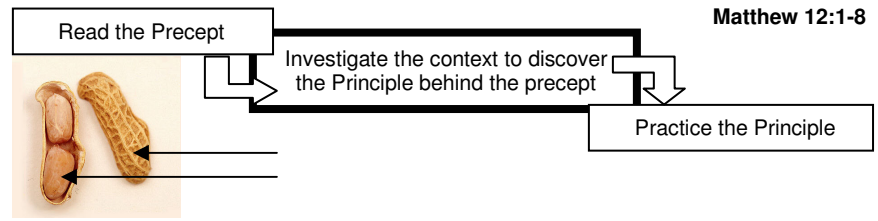
We do not follow the \_\_\_\_\_. We read the Bible to understand Jesus better and then follow \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, we cannot apply any passage of Scripture outside of its context – and that context must include the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus.

Luke 16:17; Matthew 24:35 / Mark 13:31 / Luke 21:33  
Matthew 7:12 / Luke 6:31; Romans 13:10

### READING THE BIBLE RELIGIOUSLY...



### READING THE BIBLE JESUSLY ...



## Principle-Based Living... The First of Six Case Studies

**Matthew 5:21-26**

### THE SIX ANTITHESES – WHAT IS JESUS CONTRASTING?...

- a) The religious leaders' legalistic, outside-in interpretation of the Torah with his spirit-focused, inside-out interpretation (e.g., v. 43; Mark 7:1-18).
- b) The Torah with his teaching (e.g., vv. 33-37; 19:8-9; Mark 7:19b).
- c) The letter of the Law with the spirit of the Law (Romans 8:4).
- d) What was with what ought to be (Genesis 9:6).

Psalms 14:1; Matthew 23:17; Mark 3:5

### JESUS THOUGHT:

Jesus' anger is always directed at injustice, hypocrisy, and exploitation of others. It is never about an emotional response to \_\_\_\_\_ offence. When he is personally attacked, his response is grace and forgiveness.  
Luke 23:33-34; 1 Peter 2:23

### IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:

When personally wounded, forgive. When witness to injustice, hypocrisy, and exploitation, \_\_\_\_\_ against the machine.

## Conclusion – Learning While Following

Matthew 5:23-24

### JESUS THOUGHT:

Jesus isn't just saying that reconciliation is important. He's also saying it is \_\_\_\_\_!

### IMPLICATION FOR JESUS FOLLOWERS:

Jesus' teaching is not meant to be only examined, meditated on, and prayed about. It is meant to be \_\_\_\_\_. It always drives toward action.

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. Explore and discuss this quote by Haddon W. Robinson: *Just as the fetus is fulfilled in the adult human, so the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled in Christ's works and words.*
2. Take time to review this week's message and discuss your reactions. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
3. What makes you angry? Is your anger mechanism more aligned with the example of Jesus (against injustice) or with the example he rebukes in others (over personal offence)?

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. How do the following passages support the teaching of Jesus on murder and anger – **Ephesians 4:26-27; Philippians 4:8; James 4:1-6; 1 John 3:14-18**? Which passage contains the most applicable advice for you and your relationship to anger? Explain.
5. Read about how Jesus challenges the religious leaders' interpretation and application of the Bible in **Matthew 12:1-8**. a) How could you summarize Jesus' point in vv. 3-5? b) How do Jesus' words in v. 6 challenge the religious establishment of his day? c) How might these same words challenge religious people in our day?
6. The Jews at the time of Jesus were trying to decide whether or not to fight against the Romans or to live in peace with them. The majority eventually decided to fight – and lost the war terribly, seeing thousands slaughtered and their Temple destroyed. How does this context inform our understanding of what Jesus was communicating to his listeners in passages like **Matthew 5:25-26**?
7. Last week we looked ahead at the next section of the Sermon on the Mount – **Matthew 5:27-32**. a) What do you think is Jesus' point in vv. 29-30? b) How could we apply this principle in cases of anger and lust?

#### SO WHAT?...

8. Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on **Matthew 5:8** as it applies to *your* life. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
9. Pray for each other regarding your continued spiritual growth during this series.

**Bruyce Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 2 / 9, 2004**