

A. INTEGRITY (:33-37)

1. Religious People Are Always Looking For Loopholes In The Law

- a. "if I swear by the Temple, that's binding. But if... by the Temple mount, that's just rocks and dirt..."
- b. e.g. Fingers crossed! / Didn't say "Simon says"
- c. Even if the loopholes are legal, that kind of slippery thinking reveals a lack of integrity

2. Locks Only Keep Out The Honest People

- a. When there are no thieves we won't need locks
- b. When everyone is honest we won't need contracts

- We're all been ripped off: J.L. in LC: agreement, shook hands, communion, announcement...
- broken promises revealed a lack of integrity; fallout left a string of hurt people...

3. When God's Law Is Written On Our Heart, You Don't Need A Religious Rule Book

- a. A promise is a promise. Your word is your bond; A handshake means more than a signature
- b. (:37b) *For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*

B. REVENGE (:38-42)

1. (:38) This Is A Powerful Principal

- a. cf. Gandhi / MLK - you control the situation when you don't fight back
- b. Eye for eye = limit liability (only 1 for 1!)

2. Jesus Is NOT Teaching Us To Be Doormats (:39-42)

- a. ...Resist = do not try to fight them on their terms, w/their weapons, on their home turf
- b. Turn cheek ≠ invite another slap (= reinforces don't resist)
- c. (:40-41) Instead of standing up for your "rights", use the opportunity to show God's heart

3. Revenge Is Better Left To The Lord

- a. *...never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord.* (Romans 12:19, NLT)
- b. *I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them.* (Deuteronomy 32:35, NLT)
- c. Remember: Jesus died for their sin too.

C. LOVE (:43-47)

1. The Basis For This Come From Leviticus 19:18

- a. *You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD*
- b. Did you notice what's missing? - "hate your enemy" is man's way of thinking, not God's
- c. (:44-45) What He's talking about here is the way your new heart reveals your new life

2. Remember What Led Into All This (:20)

- a. And now the section closes with a promise:
- b. Be perfect? never angry (murder), never have a lustful thought (adultery), always turn the other cheek, love those who persecute me? • That's impossible - I can't do that!