**Matthew 5: 21-30**

Suggested Questions based on Sunday 17 October’s talk

* *Visit the Church Website’s homepage to view Sunday’s service on Facebook or YouTube).*
* *You may find it useful to use the sermon notes to help discuss various questions.*

*These can be found on the Inspiring Resources Page.*

**To start**

* How good are you at following rules?
* Which is more important to obey – the letter of the law or the spirit of the law?
Why?
* What rules have you made in your life, that you have found yourselves having to modify or reinterpret, because you have ‘fallen foul’ of them yourself?

**Setting: The Antitheses**

Wilkins, a Bible commentator writes: *In each antithesis, Jesus demonstrates how the Old*

*Testament is to be properly interpreted and applied and, thus, how the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled.*

Each Antithesis has 3 parts:

1. It is introduced with the expression ‘You have heard it was said…’
2. Jesus cites or alludes to a current popular interpretation of the law
3. Jesus reveals the intended meaning of the law

**Antithesis I – Murder**

Read Matthew 5: 21-26

* In the Ancient Near East, Murder didn’t apply to the killing of animals; defending one’s home; accidental killings; or involvement in a nation’s armed forces.
Do you agree with this? Why? Why not?

Jesus widens the definition of murder beyond the physical act to include different ways in which a person’s life can be harmed, including anger and calling people derogatory names.

1. **Anger**
* Reflect on a time when you were angry with another person. Try and describe the range of emotions you felt.
* In what ways can anger affect the person it is directed towards?
* What can be the consequences of unresolved anger?
* What measures can one put in place to prevent getting angry?
1. **Calling People Derogatory Names**
* Discuss the impact calling someone ‘empty headed’ (Raca) or a ‘Moron’ (Fool) has on the recipient.
* How should we respond to people who call us names that we find offensive?
* In what ways can we ensure we always honour people?

**Antithesis II – Adultery**

Read Matthew 5: 27-30

In Scripture, adultery is used to describe both intimate encounters between two people, of whom one at least is married to another person, **and** the way in which the people of Israel went after gods other than Yahweh.

* Why do you think Yahweh uses this term to describe Israel’s failings to love Him as they should?
* Why does Jesus suggest gouging ones eye out or cutting a hand off if one finds themselves in either of these situations?
* How can we ensure we remain single minded towards God/a marriage partner?

**Hymn to pray Together**

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour*

*live in me from day to day,*

*by his love and power controlling*

*all I do or say.*

*May the word of God dwell richly*

*in my heart from hour to hour,*

*so that all may see I triumph*

*only through his power.*

*May the peace of God my Father*

*rule my life in everything*

*that I am be calm to comfort*

*sick and sorrowing.*

*May the love of Jesus fill me,*

*as the waters fill the sea;*

*him exalting, self abasing –*

*this is victory.*

*May I run the race before me,*

*strong and brave to face the foe,*

*looking only unto Jesus*

*as I onward go.*

*Kate Barclay Wilkinson*