

AND HE OPENED HIS MOUTH, AND TAUGHT THEM....

TRUTH, CONCERNING THE LORD'S PEOPLE IN THEIR CONDUCT

Matthew 5:21-48

<u>The Contrast</u>	<u>The Advice</u>	<u>The Conduct</u>
Rationalization vs. Brotherly Love (5:21-26)	Think no ill of a brother (v. 22) Think not to do good for God while at offense (23) Be reconciled (v 24) Avoid judgment (25)	Have right relationships with your brethren before trying to appear to have a good relationship with your God.
Human Moral judgments vs Divine Standards (5:27-32)	Sin is inward as well as (or more than) outward (28) Avoid offensive practices leading to sin (29) Make no "expedient" solutions (32)	Be morally pure and thereby above moral reproach.
Equivocation vs precise speech (5:33-37)	Don't use oaths to justify rash acts (33) Don't seek to make heaven a witness to earth deeds (34) Speak precisely	Let your word be true.
Legalism vs Absolute Integrity (5:38-42)	Conduct no vendetta (39) Discharge fully all debts (40) Go beyond the minimal requirement (41) Exhibit no selfishness (42)	Discharge your rightful obligations in such a manner as to bring no reproach on the truth as to whose person you are.
Vindictiveness vs Divine Love (5:43-47)	Show kindness where needed most (44) Remember God's goodness ex- tends to all (45) Be considerate to all (47)	Show to all the Love of God.

The conduct of the Lord's People may then be summed up in the language of vs. 48:

BE PERFECT AS YOUR FATHER IS PERFECT.