

# **The Sermon on the Mount**

## **Learning to Follow Jesus**

Fr. Stewart Clem  
Chapel of St. George  
November 17, 2024

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

- Jesus (Matt. 5: 17)

### **The Six ‘Antitheses’ (Matthew 5:21-48)**

“You have heard it said...”

“but I say to you...”

Two questions we must ask concerning each ‘antithesis’:

- 1) What idea is being opposed and what is its source?
- 2) How is Jesus “fulfilling” the law by his teaching? (See 5:17-20)

### **Anger**

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’” (5:21)

*Source:* The Ten Commandments (Exodus 5:13)

### **Lust**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’” (5:27)

*Source:* The Ten Commandments (Exodus 5:14)

## **Divorce**

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’” (5:31)

*Source:* The Law of Moses (see Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

## **Oaths**

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’” (5:33)

*Source:* The Law of Moses (see Numbers 30:2)

## **Retaliation**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’” (5:38)

*Source:* The Law of Moses (see Leviticus 24:19-20)

## **Enemies**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’” (5:43)

*Source:* popular sentiment, Rabbinical teaching

Note: Leviticus 19:18 says “love your neighbor,” but the Torah never says “hate your enemy”

## **Jesus is both a *teacher* of the law and the *source* of the law**

“Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.” (Matt. 7:29)

St. Thomas Aquinas: “And note that no prophet speaking about the law of Moses spoke in this way: ***but I say to you***, but nevertheless they preached observance of the law of Moses. By this it is clear that the Lord shows that he has authority, and he shows that he is the lawgiver when he says, ***but I say to you***.”