

St Martins C3 – February 15, 2026
Fully Formed Humans – Upside Down Kingdom

Sermon Notes:

Read Matthew 5:17-20

The Sermon on the Mount is about the formation of a new people through a new view of the Law. Jesus accomplishes the purpose of the law. It wasn't about rule following, it was about him all along. He is the fulfilment of everything: the priestly laws, the sacrificial system, the holiness code, the moral law and the sabbath all point to Jesus and are fulfilled by Him.

Jesus says that his followers need to have a different kind of righteousness that goes beyond following the rules. One that achieves its purpose of creating disciples who are mature – fully formed humans. He gives six examples.

Example One: Murder – Matthew 5:21-26

If you are on the path that leads to harming others then you are walking away from the path of a fully formed life. Instead, Jesus encourages people towards reconciliation and friendship.

Example Two: Adultery – Matthew 5:27-30

You can't avoid feeling attraction and noticing beauty. Nor should you kill desire. But one of the most basic Christian disciplines is controlling that attraction and desire. A transformed person takes radical steps to avoid sexual sin.

Example Three: Divorce – Matthew 5:31-32

We can have love and grace for any divorced person yet still affirm what Jesus is saying. Marriage vows must be treated seriously and not easily discarded. This reworking was compassionate in Jesus' day.

Example Four: Vows – Matthew 5:33-36

A fully formed human doesn't need to make a promise or sign on the dotted line to follow through on what they say.

Example Five: Revenge – Matthew 5:38-42

A fully formed person's heart is so changed that they lay down the need to get even and put others first.

Example Six: Love Your Enemies – Matthew 5:43-47

To love those who mean you harm is as radical and revolutionary as any teaching ever to come before people.

Conclusion – Matthew 5:48

We are called to complete and mature behaviour that is perfect in love like God. It's an ongoing process.

To be transformed you need to commit to more than formal obedience – don't just go through the motions. The Pharisees were meticulous in their legalism, but they were dead inside. Jesus isn't interested in that.

He is interested in people committed to transformation.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Fully formed humans come from following the commands of Jesus from our heart.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

"Just following rules does not lead to life change without understanding the purpose of those rules." Discuss.

How do we know when Jesus is using hyperbole and when we should follow what he says as a new command?

Discuss how to live out the six areas mentioned, how they lead to us become mature people, and the questions they raise.

Preferred Future Exercise: Pick one of the six examples.

A – What would it look like to get 10 out of 10 in that area?

Write down four or five things you would see.

B – What score do you give yourself? Why do you give yourself that score?

Be honest and realistic about the areas you fall short

C -How could you lift that one or two numbers?

Pick a practical thing you can do to bring heart change.

Monday Devotion: SOAP Bible Study

Scripture: Identify the scripture for the day, read it a few times, meditating on it. **Observation:** As you meditate on scripture, what stands out to you? Keep in mind what it meant to the original audience and the principle for all people.

Application: What can you apply in your life from this scriptural principle? **Prayer:** What prayer rises up from you as you consider all of this?

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion

Scripture

Matthew 5:21-26

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion

Scripture

Matthew 5:27-30

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion

Scripture

Matthew 5:31-37

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion

Scripture

Matthew 5:38-48

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
