

## No Fine Print - Part 2

Get Used To Different | Week 9 | Matthew 5:11-12

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
If you get through this life, particularly in the culture of this world, and you are never in any way, shape, form, or fashion persecuted, maybe it's because you're not standing for Jesus. Hopefully, today you will decide in light of this message that you are going to stand up when you need to and you are going to speak up when you need to. If you pay the price of persecution, you can be reminded that Jesus says you are blessed. So to prepare for that moment, let's look at the three pieces of counsel Jesus gives regarding facing persecution.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Be Alert To The Ways You Will Be Hurt There are three different ways you can be hurt by others in this world. People can say bad things to you, they can do bad things to you, and they can say bad things about you. Each one is painful to endure, but as we continue to follow Jesus, we need to come to terms with the fact that being hurt in these three ways is inevitable. So we need to be alert as they come our way and remember that it comes with the territory of being a Christian.	
2. Beware Of Why You Will Be Hated You would think that if you were to be the kind of person that Jesus talks about in all these beatitudes, if you are broken, if you are humble, if you are meek, if you just want to do the right thing and be the right person, if you are merciful, if you are pure in heart, if you want to be a peacemaker that you wouldn't be facing persecution; you would be riding in parades.	
You don't think you would be persecuted – you would think you would be praised! Jesus says one thing in today's key verse that ought to absolutely convince you that is not true. He said the reason people will hate you is because of Him. We can't forget that truth. The world hates Jesus. And so if we are going to spend our lives representing Him and living for Him, the world is going to hate us too.	

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#### 3. Be Affirmed By Whom You Will Be Honored

In Matthew 5:12, Jesus says, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." The word for "be glad" is a word that doesn't just mean to smile or clap your hands. It means to be overjoyed. Literally, it means to skip and jump because you are so happy and excited. These are the instructions on how we are to act when we are persecuted. And if Jesus is telling the truth, persecution is not a burden of pain that you have to carry, as much as it is a badge of honor that you get to bear.

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	When was a time you faced persecution for your faith? How did you react?
2.	Why do you think the world hates Jesus so much?
3.	What is a practical way you can "rejoice and be glad" when you face persecution?

## **Under The Influence**

Get Used To Different | Week 10 | Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Jesus makes two important statements to His followers in today's key passage. He says, "You are the salt of the earth, and you are the light of the world." As we study this text together, we are going to see that Jesus used these metaphors because we live in a world that is decaying and dark. The culture before our eyes is disintegrating. The darkness of evil is a cloud that covers this entire planet. We need to be the salt that stops the decay and light that penetrates the darkness. With this in mind, here is the whole point of what Jesus is going to say – Jesus makes us different so we can make a difference. And when we make a difference by being salt and light, we can bring the world under the influence.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Share The Salt  If we are going to influence this world the way we should, we have to share the salt. We've got to take our Christianity out of church on Sunday morning and put it on Main Street, downtown, in the schools and universities, in the neighborhood, and in the community on Monday.	
Salt that stays on the shelf, salt that stays in the store, doesn't do anybody any good. We've got to get out of our churches, out of our houses, out of our holy huddles, and begin to show what a godly life filled with Jesus looks like to our next-door neighbors, to the people who work under us or work above us, to our classmates, to our teammates, to our relatives, and to our friends.	
2. Shine The Light The purpose of light is to get rid of darkness. If you haven't noticed, we're living in a dark world that I believe is getting darker every day – terrorism, racial unrest, economic uncertainty, immorality, family disintegration, wars and rumors of war, nuclear proliferation.	

#### **Under The Influence**

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There's only one light that can penetrate this darkness and that is the light of the Gospel of Jesús and the light of the Jesus of the gospel. Now, before He preached the sermon on the mount, Jesus had said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

So which is it? Are we the light of the world or is He the light of the world? The answer to that is yes. Jesus is the light of the world, but a follower of Jesus has Jesus within him and the light of Jesus is in you and what He wants you to do is to let Him shine His light through you.

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## **Under The Influence**

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	How can you be a salty Christian outside of the church?
2.	What is an area of darkness that you need to shine the light of Jesus in?
3.	What scares you or intimidates you about being salt and light?

## The Rule Of Law

Get Used To Different | Week 11 | Matthew 5:17-20

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
If you are going to be rightly related to God both in this life and the life to come, you had better be rightly related to the truth of God's Word. We are going to learn in today's message that when you honor the Lord, you honor the law that the Lord honors. Now, what does that mean exactly? Let's dive in together and find out.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Must Honor The Permanence Of God's Law In verse 17, Jesus is preparing them for what they are about to hear in the Sermon on the Mount by letting them know He is in no way advocating unhitching from the Old Testament (or discarding the Old Testament) as if it has no relevance anymore to who we are and to how we live.	
Without question, Jesus saw the Old Testament as God's permanent truth. He did not come to destroy in any way the Old Testament or the law in it. He never said one thing or did one thing to ever bring an ounce of doubt on the permanent truth of the Old Testament. He confirmed every single word of it.	
However, the way that the law is applied is now very, very different, which is why Jesus said to fulfill the law. He didn't come to abolish it. And He didn't come to police it. He came to fulfill it.	
2. We Must Honor The Principles Of God's Law God still has laws and commandments that are in effect for all time and all people. We should tell the truth and not lie. We should leave other people's property alone and not steal. We should be sexually pure and not commit adultery or take an innocent life and not murder. Not only should we obey and keep these commandments we should teach others to do it as well.	
Jesus plainly says we're going to be personally judged by how we obey God's word or disobey God's word and also how we influence other people to either obey or disobey God's word.	

#### The Rule Of Law

Get Used To Different | Week 11 | Matthew 5:17-20

Greatness in God's kingdom is going to be determined not by your gifts, your abilities, your success, your popularity, your reputation, or even the size of your ministry. It is going to be determined by how you perceived God's word, practiced God's word, and promoted God's word.

#### 3. We Must Honor The Purpose Of God's Law

The purpose of God's law is not to justify our own righteousness and good works. The purpose of God's law is to point us to our Savior and help us recognize our need for Him. Our focus is not on the law; it's on the Lord. Our love should not be on anything but for the Lord.

When you place your faith in the one who has fulfilled the law and still wants us through Him to fulfill the law, God's righteous law will no longer be your enemy; it'll be your friend. A Christian doesn't have to obey the Ten Commandments, but a true Christian will want to, not just on the outside, but on the inside.

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### The Rule Of Law

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the law?
2.	Have you ever viewed/used the law to judge yourself or others? How so?
3.	What is one practical way you can focus on the Lord above all else?

## It's Murder

 $Get\ Used\ To\ Different\ |\ Week\ 12\ |\ Matthew\ 5:21\text{--}26$ 

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Approximately 70 murders happen in the United States every single day. We are the murder capital of the Western world. Yet, if I were to ask you, "Have you ever murdered anyone?" you would probably and emphatically say, "No!" But listen to what Jesus said about murder. He is going to show us in today's key verses that murder is not an act; it is an attitude. Put simply, Jesus said, "Murder from the hands comes from murder in the heart." We are going to see exactly what Jesus says about murder and you will see it in a totally different light.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Must Internally See The Cause Of The Problem Jesus makes it very clear in today's key passage that when you have anger towards someone in your heart, that's the same thing as murdering them. Now, technically you didn't physically murder them, so legally you are in the clear, but spiritually and morally in God's eyes, it is murder.	
In a real sense it is not attempted murder it is actual murder. So the one commandment – "Thou Shalt Not Murder" – that we all think we have never broken, we probably all have. You've got to internally see the cause of the problem.	
2. We Must Intentionally Seek The Cure For The Problem In our key passage, Jesus is specifically speaking to the person who knows someone who has something against you. In other words, you may not have anything against anybody, but if you know someone has something against you (even if it is not deserved, even if you have done nothing wrong) you should try to reconcile with that person. Either way, whether you are the offender or the offended, keep this in mind.	

## It's Murder

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 12} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:21-26}$ 

When a person forgives someone who didn't even ask for it, but they do it anyway, this frees the offended. On the other hand, when someone genuinely asks for forgiveness even if they really didn't do anything wrong and they are not forgiven, this frees the offender. That is why sometimes you experience acceptance without repentance and sometimes you experience repentance without acceptance, but either way, you should potentially seek the cure of the problem by doing all you can to be reconciled.  Remember, you cannot be right with the Father who is above you if you are not right with a brother who is beside you.	NOTES
if you are not right with a brother who is beside you.	
3. We Must Immediately Settle The Conflict Of The	
Problem  Not only should we get right with others intentionally, but as much as possible we should do it immediately. He said, "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny" (Matthew 5:25-26).	
The point Jesus is making here is very simple. Make things right	
with everyone you can before it is too late. Waiting around is not an option when there is conflict to be resolved.	

## It's Murder

 $\textit{Get Used To Different} \mid \textit{Week 12} \mid \textit{Matthew 5:21-26}$ 

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	When was a time you "committed murder" because of the anger you had towards someone?
2.	Who in your life do you need to seek to reconcile with?
3.	Have you ever waited a while to resolve a conflict? What would you do differently if you could go back and change the situation?