

“How’s Your Vertical?”

Matthew 5.20-16

Jeremy Spence-Director of
Student Ministries

- puzzle

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What does your piece look like?

Idealist

Realist

Optimist

Pessimist

The final picture

During our Vision Conference in January we affirmed and committed to: Become a more loving, welcoming and encouraging **community**.

Question is:

What are you willing to do to help?

Today we are working in a passage that has grave **implications** for us at First Baptist.

The Sermon on the Mount

- It is something that should be the norm in the Christian life. (5.48)
- It is something that is doable for the Christian. (5.20)
- It is a realistic ideal.
- Requires believers to act.
- Is something we must come back to again and again.
- It is the central passage on growing in our faith.

Two Relationship Categories

Vertical=Our relationship with God

Horizontal=Our relationship with Others

Matthew 5.20-26

- We must have the right type of righteousness.
 - A. The Pharisee's
 - B. God's

Pharisee's Form

- 284 commands to be followed. Things to do.
- 365 things “not” to do. Prohibitions.
- Depended on the external actions.
- Was about quantity of obedience.
- Seen in our passage by the “you have heard that it was said...”

God's Form

- Dependent on the inside/heart of a person.
- Is all about quality of obedience.
- Works its way from the inside to the outside.
- Seen in the Sermon on the Mount by “...but I tell you...”

Our Threefold Example:

1. We sin when we are angry for no good reason with someone.
2. We sin when we degrade someone else's intrinsic value.

As seen in life

- **Speaking** gossip.
- **Listening** to gossip.

Gossip Is:

- Speaking **falsely** about someone.
- Speaking the truth in the **wrong way**.
- Speaking the **truth** to someone that doesn't need to know.

Our Threefold Example:

1. We sin when we are **angry** for no good reason with someone.
2. We sin when we **degrade** someone else's intrinsic value.
3. We sin when we don't settle things **quickly**.

Our **vertical** health depends on
our **horizontal** health.

What can we do about this?

1. Check our **motives** for everything.
Remember this sin starts out in the heart.
2. **Admit** when we are wrong and mess up.
3. Make **right** our relationships with others, quickly.
4. Always default to **love**.
5. Treat others with **respect** and **courtesy**

Final Thoughts

We need to have a sense of **urgency** about making our relationships right.

“There are no **ordinary** people.” C.S. Lewis