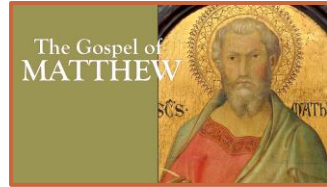


# Surpassing Righteousness

## Matthew 5:21–26

Neil Trainer

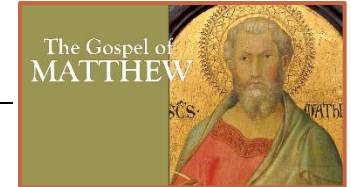
February 16, 2025



# Surpassing Righteousness

## Matthew 5:21–26

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



## NOTES

- Recall a recent time when you were angry with something or someone. Without giving details of the situation, what does anger feel like to you? How do you experience anger with your thoughts, emotions, and body? How do you express anger?
- *Read Matthew 5:21–26.* How does Jesus begin to contrast the surpassing righteousness of his kingdom with that of the Pharisees (cf. Mt. 5:20)? How is Jesus revealing his authority?
- What is Jesus implicitly affirming about the law prohibiting murder (cf. Mt. 5:18–19)? Why is it not enough? What is this law unable to do for us and our relationships with others?
- Against what three things does Jesus first warn us (5:22)? While not murder, how can our words assassinate another's character? What is the effect on our relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves when we do these things?
- In Jesus' first example (5:23–24), who is angry and who works for reconciliation? What is a modern equivalent to "leave your gift at the altar"? What kind of person would live and relate to others in the way Jesus describes?
- How does Jesus' second example (5:25–26) differ from the first? What is this person's motivation and goal? Again, what kind of person would live and relate to others as Jesus describes?
- Which of Jesus' two examples resonates with you most? How might Jesus be inviting you today to relate to another person with the surpassing righteousness of his kingdom instead of anger? How do you want to respond? How can your small group or others support you as you do?