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Study Journal: Matthew 5-7

Additional Resources:

- [Jesus the Christ](#)

Notes

- **Matthew 5-6** - A lot of what he says is simply emphasizing the fact that God doesn't look on the outwardly appearance, He looks on the heart. If you're doing everything right, but you're dragging your feet at the same time, it's not going to profit you anything. If you're choosing the right so that everyone else will see you and see what an amazing person you are, you won't be rewarded for that. Lot's wife was obedient to the commandment to physically leave Sodom. However, she kept Sodom in her heart, which is why she looked back and turned to a pillar of salt.
- **Matthew 5:29-30** - One great example of this is the Anti-Nephi-Lehis (see Alma 24:17-18). They buried their only form of protection because they didn't want to shed blood. They saw that it was more important that they die on earth so that they could attain the Kingdom of God in heaven than that they retain their life here on earth, then be "cast into hell" in the eternities. And they *put their weapons of war out of reach*. It would be extremely difficult for them to retrieve their weapons and return to their old ways. Sometimes, if we need to get rid of something in our life, the best way to do it is to get as far away as possible from that thing. If we keep a temptation close and accessible, we are more likely to fall back into it. Sometimes distancing ourselves from the temptation comes with other difficulties. But it is more important that we deal with those difficulties than that we fall back into temptation.
- **Matthew 5:33-37** - In the Old Testament, oaths are very important. Whenever one swears by the name of God or makes some other oath, that oath is binding. However, it seems that by the time of Jesus, people had begun to take oaths casually, taking out the meaning behind the oath. It's similar to today, when, for example, someone says, "Well I'll be damned if I don't have an answer to your question." In the Old Testament, this would have been an oath stating that if the person didn't have an answer to the question, they would be damned. However, nowadays, it's just a declaration of surprise. It has very little meaning. Thus, in order

to avoid taking oaths casually, Christ told his disciples to simply say "Yea, yea; Nay, nay."

- **Matthew 7:1-5** - "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone" (John 8:7). We shouldn't be condemning others in our own mind, while we have the same problem or an even bigger problem. God is the sole person to determine whether someone deserves forgiveness or not.
- **Matthew 7:16-20** - What fruits am I producing?
 - Working hard at work
 - Homework getting in on time
 - Am I spending enough time with friends to show them the value of our relationship?
 - Am I staying in contact with my family?
 - Am I magnifying my calling?
 - How has faith, repentance, and the Atonement changed my life recently?
- **Matthew 7:28-29** - Missionaries are given the authority to share the gospel by a prophet of God, sometimes, their doctrines "astonish" the people that they teach.