

Study Guide: Matthew Lesson 76

Sunday AM-July 26, 2026

Introduction

This study guide explores the teachings of Jesus Christ from the Sermon on the Mount, specifically focusing on Matthew 5:23–26. The lesson emphasizes that true worship of God is deeply connected to how we treat other people. According to the text, God does not want our worship or our gifts if we are harboring anger or if we have unresolved conflicts with others. The lesson also explores the high standard of God's law, explaining that anger and malicious words are viewed as seriously as murder in the eyes of God. Through the history of the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and the analysis of biblical analogies, this guide examines the themes of reconciliation, debt, and the need for the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Short-Answer Review Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences based on the information provided in the lesson.

1. According to the lesson, what must happen to the gap between people before the gap between man and God can be reconciled?
2. How does Jesus Christ define a "murderer" in a way that goes beyond the physical act of killing?
3. What specific action does Jesus Christ command a person to take if they remember a brother has something against them while they are at the altar?
4. Why is it important to agree with an adversary "quickly" while you are still on the way with them?
5. In the biblical analogy of the debtor, what does the "judge" and the "prison" represent?
6. Who was Robert Robinson, and what was his lifestyle like before he was touched by a gospel message?
7. What specific scripture and sermon title influenced Robert Robinson to change his life in 1755?
8. How does the speaker describe the "lower rowers" (hooparitis) in the context of the Greek legal system?
9. According to the summation of the lesson, why are all people considered "guilty" of murder under the definition provided by Jesus Christ?
10. What is the only way a person can be justified if they cannot perfectly follow the high standard of God's law?

Answer Key

1. The gap between people must be reconciled before the gap between man and God can be fixed. If you have anger or conflict against others, you cannot properly worship the Lord until those relationships are made right.
2. Jesus Christ teaches that having anger in your heart, saying malicious words about someone's character, or cursing someone makes you a murderer in the eyes of God. This shows that God's standard of holiness includes our internal thoughts and spoken words, not just our physical actions.
3. If a person remembers a conflict while at the altar, they are told to leave their gift there and go away immediately. They must first be reconciled to their brother or sister, and only then can they return to the altar to offer their gift to God.
4. Reconciliation should happen quickly because tomorrow might be too late for either person involved. If conflict is allowed to fester, it can lead to judgment or a situation where the debt of kindness or respect can never be paid back.
5. In the analogy, being dragged into court correlates to receiving chastisement or judgment from the Lord. The prison represents a place of judgment, such as hell or "God's woodshed," where a person may find themselves unable to settle their debts.
6. Robert Robinson was the author of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" who was born to poor Christian parents in England. As a teenager in London, he joined a gang and lived a life of sin and debauchery before hearing a life-changing sermon.
7. Robinson was influenced by George Whitfield's preaching on Matthew 3:7, which warns the "generation of vipers" to flee from the "wrath to come." Those words stayed in his heart for weeks until he found forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
8. The "lower rowers" were submissive officers of the court who did exactly what the court told them to do without mercy. The term describes an officer who takes a debtor to prison, where they remain until their debt is paid by someone else.
9. All people are considered guilty because everyone has felt bitterness, been angry, or said malicious things at some point. Since Jesus Christ defines these heart conditions as murder, every person fails to keep the standard and deserves death and hell.
10. Since no one can follow the law perfectly, the only way to be justified is through the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. He died our death on the cross and offers His righteousness as a gift to those who repent and accept His forgiveness.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Use the themes from the lesson to provide detailed responses to the following prompts.

1. Explain the concept of "imputed righteousness" and why the speaker believes it is necessary for someone who desires to be a true worshiper of God.
2. Discuss the significance of the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" in relation to the theme of "wandering." How does Robert Robinson's life reflect the lyrics he wrote?
3. Analyze the legal analogy Jesus Christ uses regarding the adversary, the judge, and the prison. How does this illustration explain the consequences of refusing to reconcile with others?
4. Describe the standard of holiness set by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. Why does the speaker argue that this standard is designed to drive people to a position of frustration?
5. The lesson describes God as the "real judge" who nonetheless seeks reconciliation with "vile murderers." How should God's desire for reconciliation affect the way believers handle their own interpersonal conflicts?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adversary:** An opponent or enemy, specifically one involved in a legal dispute or conflict.
- **Altar:** A place where religious sacrifices or gifts are offered to God; in the lesson, it represents the place of worship.
- **Chastisement:** Corrective punishment or discipline, often referred to in the lesson as "God's woodshed."
- **Debauchery:** Excessive indulgence in sinful pleasures or immoral behavior.
- **Discernment:** The ability to judge well or understand the truth behind a situation.
- **Fathom:** To understand a difficult or deep problem after much thought.
- **Imputed:** To attribute something to someone; specifically, when the righteousness of Jesus Christ is credited to a believer's account.
- **Mended:** Repaired or fixed; used in the lesson to describe broken homes and lives restored by God.
- **Onus:** A burden or responsibility; in the lesson, the responsibility to reconcile falls on the person who knows there is a conflict.
- **Prophetic:** Accurately describing or predicting what will happen in the future.

- **Reconcile:** To restore friendly relations between people or between a person and God.
- **Self-Righteousness:** A feeling or display of (usually false) moral superiority derived from following rules rather than having a right heart.
- **Wrath:** Extreme anger, specifically the righteous judgment of God against sin.

Greek Word Guide

The following terms were used during the lesson to explain the original Greek context of the scriptures:

Greek Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Hooparitis [^1]	(hoo-par-ee-tees)	A submissive officer of the court; originally referred to the "lower rowers" on a naval warship who were entirely obedient to their superiors.
Quat clat [^2]	(kwat-klat)	A term referring to the "last penny" or the smallest possible unit of currency (a quarter of a penny) mentioned in Matthew 5:26.

[^1]: Used by the speaker to describe the submissive nature of a court officer who carries out the judge's orders to imprison a debtor. [^2]: Referenced in the text as the Greek phrase for the "last penny," signifying that a debt must be paid in its entirety.