

SERMON

On the

MOUNT

JESUS CONSIDERS
CHARACTER BEFORE
CONDUCT

JESUS CONSIDERS
CHARACTER AND
CONDUCT

JESUS CONSIDERS
CHARACTER CAUSES
CONDUCT

Our Study So Far

- Introduction

- It is a sermon
 - Urging them to do something
 - Bring to a point of decision
- Pointed to the disciples

- Beatitudes

- Characteristics of the title of disciple - Citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven
- Not one of these characteristics are natural human tendencies.

- You are salt and light

- We are to live differently than the non-disciple.
- The world needs us or there will be no salt no light

- Righteousness is the key to the Kingdom

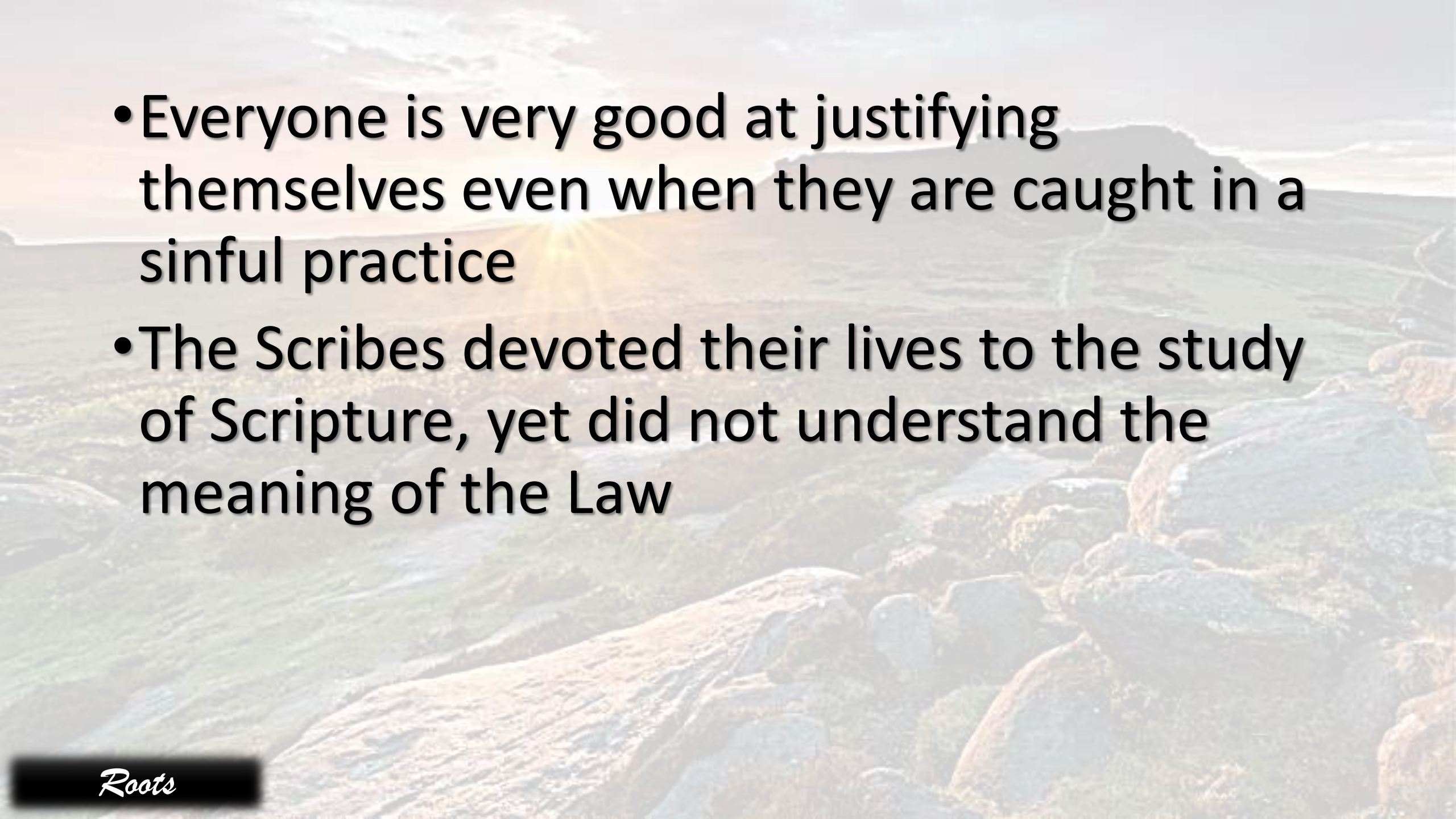
A logical progression
from one point to the
next

(A sermon needs to flow from one point to the next)

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Only those who have true righteousness will enter the kingdom of heaven

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- Everyone is very good at justifying themselves even when they are caught in a sinful practice
 - The Scribes devoted their lives to the study of Scripture, yet did not understand the meaning of the Law

Matthew 5:21-48 presents, refutes & corrects six of the teachings of the Scribes – Each start with “you have heard”

Murder

Adultery

Divorce

Vows

Revenge

Love

Matthew 6 and 7

- Practices of the Pharisees
- Contrast
 - Pharisees exercise of keeping the law as the basis of righteousness
 - Jesus' desire of the Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Giving 6:2
 - Prayer 6:5
 - Fasting 6:16
- Commands instead of contrast
 - Three prohibitions
 - No treasures on earth 6:19
 - No judgements 7:1
 - No giving to dogs the wisdom of God 7:6

MATTHEW 5:21-26

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“THOSE OF OLD”

- Sixth commandment followed by the Scribe’s interpretation and warning.
- The Pharisees strived to live in righteousness, but failed because their traditions replaced God’s standards
- The courts became the only justice!

Justice

Premise:

God exists

God loves perfectly

God is just perfectly

1. Is God's justice punitive or restorative?
2. Is God's justice proportional in its application?
3. Is God's justice based upon character or conduct?



6th commandment

- Interpreted from a “don’t do” to a “don’t get caught”
- A Kingdom citizen does not murder because that is the behavior of a righteous character.
- Murder is liable to the court
- Murder is liable to God.

Murder

- **God established the punishment for murder and its reason in Genesis 9:6**
- **God hates murder** (Proverbs 6:16-19) **and murderers will be excluded from heaven** (Revelation 22:15)

Murder is not a good thing for Christians to do!

Why is it not a good thing?

Matthew 5:22

- **Murder is not just a physical act for it is a matter of the heart - 1 John 3:15**
- **The Scribes examined external actions alone, but God examines the motives & heart (Psalm 7:9; Proverbs 16:2)**



Anger

Matthew 5:22

- Anger is enough to make you guilty / liable to the court
- Anger itself is not sinful (John 2:13-17; Eph. 4:6) for motivations matter
- Jesus is talking about selfish anger, not righteous indignation

Raca

Matthew 5:22

- Insults make you guilty / liable to the supreme court
- Raca is an insulting Aramaic term - similar to idiot, jerk, blockhead, etc. used in English vernacular

You Fool

Matthew 5:22

- Slander makes you guilty / liable for fiery hell
- Fiery hell is “gehenna of fire” - the Jerusalem trash dump that came to symbolize eternal punishment
- Fool - when used improperly, is slander of a creature made in God’s image, and therefore of God too

You Fool

Matthew 5:22

P.I.N.O.G.A.M. =
Person In Need Of
Grace And Mercy

Disrupted Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

- When anger rises, relationships become strained and can break
- A wrong cannot be corrected by doing right in something else
- 1 Samuel 15 - King Saul did not obey and thought it could be corrected by sacrifice

Disrupted Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

- Worship is hindered until the wrong is corrected - Psalm 66:18
- It takes both parties to accomplish reconciliation, but you are to do your part - Romans 12:18; Matt. 18:15

Correct it Quickly

Matthew 5:25-26

- Roman custom and law allowed for “out of court settlements” only until it became a court matter
- The offender should seek reconciliation quickly before God calls you into account and requires the full price

Conclusion

- A humble P.I.N.O.G.A.M. receives that from God through faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus
- Hatred & its expressions diminish as you walk with Christ and reflect Him to the world

A scenic landscape at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow and creating lens flare effects. In the foreground, there are large, rounded rocks. The middle ground shows a valley with green fields and a winding road. In the background, there are rolling hills and a large, flat-topped mountain range under a sky with soft, wispy clouds.

Prayer Requests

A scenic landscape featuring a sunset over a valley. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. In the foreground, there are large, dark, rounded rocks. The background shows a valley with a winding road and a distant hill under a cloudy sky.

Next week

- Read Matthew 5:27-30 as part of your devotions.
- Why do you think a victimless crime has such a drastic judgement?