

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

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Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #25—The Sermon on the Mount-Kindred (Part II)

Matthew 5: On the “Extraordinary” of Christian Life

A. Treatment of Others (Matthew 5:21-26)

- Contempt for others makes worship dishonest and deprives it of any divine promise.
- It is not just my own anger which gets between me and God, but even the fact that a brother or sister exists whom I have abused, humiliated, and dishonored, and who ‘has something against me.’
- So the community of Jesus’ disciples ought to examine itself as to whether it is here and there at fault toward sisters and brothers, and whether, for the sake of the world, it has participated in hating, despising, and humiliating others.
- To do these things is to be guilty of their murder.
- Jesus’ community today ought to examine whether it has given a sign of Jesus’ love, which preserves, supports, and protects lives, to those whom the world has despised and dishonored.
- Yes, God is the Father of Jesus Christ, who came to be brother to us all. (Hebrews 2:17)
- God’s own Son was dishonored and humiliated in order to honor the Father.

- But the Father, refusing to be separated from his Son, will likewise not be separated from those whose humanity the Son assumed as an equal and for whose sake the Son bore his humiliation.
- Because the Son of God became a human being, service to God in worship can no longer be detached from service to sisters and brothers.
- Those who say that they love God and yet hate their brothers or sisters are liars. (1 John 4:19-21)
- In Jesus, service to the least brother or sister and service to God became one.
- He went and was reconciled to his human kindred and then he came and offered himself, the one true sacrifice, to his Father. (Hebrews 9:14)
- It is grace to be permitted to satisfy our sisters and brothers, and to help them attain their rights.
- It is grace that we may be reconciled with our sisters and brothers.
- They are our grace before the day of judgment.