

Miscellanies Monday

December 1, 2025

Text: Matthew 5:23-24

The Basic Thought:

We should make sure our personal relationships are in good standing before offering gifts or service to the Lord.

The context:

- This is part of the Sermon on the Mount
- Jesus has just explained that violations of the law begin in the heart

Considering finances (because they are mentioned in the next verses):

- We should be careful not to indebt ourselves to others seeing that “the borrower is servant to the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7)
 - We should have discernment in understanding when a need is important enough to go into debt
- When we owe, we should be diligent to keep our accounts in good standing and to prioritize repayment
- If another is offended by us because of a financial debt we should focus on reconciliation with our brother before offering extra gifts to the Lord
 - Tithing is a principle we should always observe seeing that those are to be paid with our first fruits, but any extra income we have afterwards should be applied towards liberating ourselves from the bondage of debt.

- If we are the lender we should consider that Christ tells us to give freely, even to our enemies, “hoping for nothing again.” (Luke 6:25)

Other thoughts:

- The word “offence” is used in a very broad way today. How do we deal with other kinds of “offences” when another person is upset with us?
 - We should strive to live peaceably with all men “as much as possible.” (Romans 12:18)
 - If my actions directly cause another person to be tempted and to sin then I must repent and reconcile (I Corinthians 10:32-33)
 - If my actions have been in violation of God’s perfect law then I must repent and reconcile
 - If reconciling would require me to accept something that is sinful then I must commit the issue to the Lord and, if necessary, follow Christ’s instruction on church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)
 - If the issue can be resolved without affirming sin and if the other person is a believer, then I should be willing to do whatever is necessary to reconcile in order to preserve unity even if that means taking blame for something I did not do (I Corinthians 6:1-8).
 - In dealing with the church we should cherish and pursue purity first and then unity
 - In dealing with the world we understand that unity cannot be had but we should still strive to “lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:2-4).
 - Do not be afraid of offending by speaking the truth in love.