

Sunday – May 11, 2025
New Series: “The Flourishing Life”



How much is your life worth?
Insurance companies will tag a value onto your life. Employers will pay you what they think you are worth. If you were to boil down our bodies to their essential elements you would have a pile of chemicals worth about \$5. Many times, in our lives we are treated, or we treat others as if they are worthless. I do so by my words, actions and attitudes, and when I do I diminish the value of their life.

Key Verse. *“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” (Matthew 5:21-22).*

Can you name a time in your life when someone made you feel worthless?
How did you respond?

In this section of “The Sermon On the Mount” Jesus delves into our relationships with others. You can almost hear the undertones of Jesus saying, “Love your neighbor as yourself” in this section. Jesus uses three very real examples to get his point across.

Read *Matthew 5:21-22*.

Here Jesus relates murder and anger.

How do you deal with your anger? Do you bury it? Lash out? Blame yourself? What point is Jesus making about the relationship between the two?

Read *Matthew 15:19*. What are you holding onto in your heart today towards someone?

Read *Matthew 5:23-26*

Jesus moves on to our relationships with others and the principles of reconciliation and forgiveness.

How well do you reconcile relationships with others? Are you proactive in the process?

Read *Colossians 3:13* and *Ephesians 4:32*. How do these verses speak to my heart regarding a relationship with which I am currently struggling?

Read *Matthew 5:27-30*.

Jesus now speaks to the issue of adultery and sexual sin.

What is my understanding of the place of sex in a relationship? Have I ever “devalued” someone’s life by seeing them, using them for my own gratification?

In each of these examples, Jesus elevates the value of people. My hope is that God through his Spirit enables me to live differently and find forgiveness when I need to start over.

THIS WEEK:

- Do I value the life of the people around me as much as God does?
- How is my heart towards God and others?