

Matthew 20-05-24b

Wonderful rendition of God of Our Fathers by our talented musical team. I never cease to be amazed at the dovetailing of Dan's choices of music for us and the theme of the class which he doesn't know in advance, but you think about that God of our fathers and that line of connection and unity and heritage from generation to generation is emphasized over and over again in scripture and the breaking of it is part of what happened in Israel and there is factionalism in Judaism today that is going to extend into the 70th week and be a part of the fulfillment of what Jesus has spoken. There are many strong controversies in the various areas of Judaism just as there are very strong controversies in the denominational strife in Christianity and there shouldn't even be denominations in my view at all.

These confederations around a creed or limiting the understanding of scripture to something that was figured out and isn't necessarily in scripture, it's conclusions drawn from scripture. What's the difference between the faith of our fathers and the God of our fathers and creedalism and confessionalism? Well one is fidelity to the scriptures across generations and worshiping together with your grandparents and your parents and your children and your grandchildren and the other is a man-made confession and man-made penalties and punishments and dismissals around not agreeing. Remember in the early days of the protestant reformation they were saying boo on the catholic church they're full of egregious persecutions and and so on but when they had heretics in their own camp John Calvin saw to it that a guy got executed, Calvin, and their people would die for heresy.

If somebody wants to be a heretic just say please don't attend my church and let them go but we've had quite the opposite throughout church history. Turn with me to Galatians chapter 5. Many places we could go Corinthians is great for this but there's a nice summary of what we're seeing in the words of the Lord Jesus over in the book of Galatians. Anytime I think of Galatians I think Galatians comma oh foolish right it's like in the military meal ready to eat Galatians oh foolish but in Galatians chapter 5 Paul is writing to them because they've gotten tangled up in a man-made belief system that has turned into another gospel and so he has been telling them not to return to the law in chapter 2 the justification comes by faith in chapter 3 and the dangers of going back under the law according to the Judaizers who are making this weird syncretism between Christian faith and Jewish observances so when you get to chapter 5 he says stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage this is a man-made yoke this is people telling you how to live your Christian life instead of going directly to God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and being your own priest now for better or for worse we do not have a human intermediary between us and the Lord Jesus he is our mediator you remember your verse there is one mediator between God and men the

man Christ Jesus one mediator your pastor is not your mediator uh the closest you could come is to say well a wife should have a husband who is the spiritual head of the house but if he wanders off into the weeds or fails to fulfill his responsibility the wife cannot use that as an excuse she goes to her savior and through him directly to God the Father to figure out what she needs to do but you know counselors and confessors and priests and other people intermediating into that you can you can get advice and you can get counsel on a limited basis if you if you need it but it better be biblical it better be short and sweet and it should be pointing you back to what the scriptures say not giving you a bunch of circumstantial advice so in chapter five stand fast in the freedom from Christ we have freedom in Christ we have freedom from Christ don't stand there and let somebody put a yoke of bondage on you I Paul say to you if you become circumcised Christ will profit you nothing what's the what's the application in our day we don't have a big problem with Judaizers trying to get us to circumcise our our males and keep in mind this circumcision was only for men right that ignores half half the people in the church but what is he really saying don't let man-made systems of righteousness that claim to be based in scripture and claim to be godliness but have no roots and no foundation there are practices in the church today that have no biblical foundation and yet your spirituality can be measured by them I testify if you fall under one of these systems then you've got to keep that system in every detail and you might as well go back to the Old Testament system and see if you can keep the law of Moses you have become estranged from Christ you who attempt to be justified by a man-made tradition used to have little envelopes they would hand us when we went to church did you put money in the offering did you bring your bible did you invite a friend you know little check mark things the implication being if you have done one or more of these things you're a good Christian bringing your bible to church inviting a friend to church putting money in the offering plate any one of those things can be a good thing but it is not the measure of your spiritual growth progress status or likelihood for blessing in this life and reward in the next it isn't what you do it is why you do it you can drop a bag of money in the offering and get no credit like the pharisees or you can put in two mites and get more credit than all the pharisees put together speaking of pharisees i saw a funny cartoon that bears on our subject a little bit it was a it was a drawing of four couples in in kind of a circle and this couple is pointing at this couple and saying there's your modern day pharisees and this couple is pointing at two guys in pointed hats and saying there's your modern day pharisees and the two guys in pointed hats are pointing at two protestant ministers and saying there's your modern day pharisees everybody is looking at everybody else saying there's your modern day pharisees it's always the other guy it's always the next one in the ring and we don't look at ourselves to see if we have fallen under a yoke of bondage by submitting to a false system of evaluation believing that we need to meet someone's standard of righteousness when instead of making sure that we are following god's very simple guidance through his word and his spirit we are our own priest and the word of god is the judge of the thoughts and intents of our heart and it will tell us where we stand the word will tell us god's word will tell us what are we looking at

this morning intramural strife fraternal conflict fratricide patricide so paul goes on to say here we through the spirit verse five this is galatians 5 5 we through the spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith this is our thursday night study right we are eagerly awaiting our hope righteousness by faith and that when the lord jesus returns we will be found in him right that's a great opportunity for in christ jesus verse six it's not the system that you subscribe to but faith working through love when jesus describes the persecution the opposition the betrayal that is going to take place in some areas and in some times uh for his disciples uh what is the problem is the opposite of love isn't it it is it's the very opposite you ran well verse seven who hindered you from obeying the truth this persuasion does not come from him who calls you commitment to creeds to confessions to doctrines there are some really ugly ugly battles going on today in some of your fundamentalist denominations between calvinists and non-calvinists the calvinists call them arminians they're not arminians jacob arminius had a very specific set of beliefs and people who aren't calvinists are generally not arminians there's very few people that are true arminians because a true arminian is basically salvation by works nobody believes that that in their right mind but it's and so calvinists will broad brush and dismiss anybody who's not a five-point calvinist by well you're an arminian well you could turn around and say well you're a pharisee the label doesn't help a little leaven leavens the whole lump skip down to verse 16 well actually uh skip down to uh verse 14 he reviews in verse 13 that you've been called to liberties talking about that freedom in christ again don't use freedom or liberty as an opportunity for the flesh but through love serve one another that's verse 13 through love serve one another we don't betray one another we don't attack one another we don't find fault with one another we don't divide and factionalize and become hostile toward one another this is in the confraternity of the faith right all the law is fulfilled in one word love your neighbor as yourself but if you bite and devour one another beware lest you disappear get consumed i say then verse 16 walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh this is where the real conflict is we think and many people think in the christian church well our conflict is against heresy and heretics our conflict is against those who are corrupting doctrine and corrupting the truth and we need to weed that out and destroy it you should see some of the hate mail that has been received by people who are just trying to promote and distribute a better understanding of scripture dave hunt is a good example dave hunt has been vilified he has been crucified he has been he's passed away and gone to glory now but they're still attacking him he has a great newsletter the berean call some folks in our family have been receiving that thing for decades and there's wonderful spiritual food in their insight reminders you don't have to agree with everything but to to attack the man there's people who have run billy graham up the pole and as a target and have shot at him right left and center and there are people who wouldn't give you a nickel for anything billy graham's ever said or done and it's christians christians it's christian violence if you will and if you haven't seen it i'm not saying go go look and and find out about it you can take my word for it it's out there it's real it is profligate it's proliferated it is everywhere

because anytime you don't have the centrality of the word of god and the spirit of god in a group of people in general and christians in particular this is what happens it always brings out the ugly flesh lusts against the spirit spirit against the flesh these are contrary to one another and so long as we fail to see that that's the battle and guard ourselves against the desires of the flesh what are these desires of the flesh this is not just contumacy or you know a desire for illicit physical pleasure we like to win we like to be right we will sacrifice important things on the altar of winning a debate or scoring a point or satisfying some other crummy need in our in our soul and we hurt each other and we get passive aggressive on each other overtly aggressive on each other this can happen in marriages it can happen in families it can happen in businesses it can happen in churches in particular grudge-bearing backbiting vindictiveness there is just a hotbed of evil circulating in groups of believers in many cases if you are led by the spirit you're not under the law now the works of the flesh are evident now when he says if you're led by the spirit you're not under the law what's he saying why does this come up right in the middle of of the warfare between the spirit and the flesh then he says if you're in the spirit don't worry about the law the law in this context is talking about the penalty for indulging the flesh the law is in large part made up of here's what happens to you if you transgress right but you don't have to worry about that it's like saying if you are led by purity of heart and nobility of spirit as a military person you don't have to worry about the uniform code of military justice and it doesn't mean you don't have to know what the requirements are it means you don't have to worry about its punishments you don't have to worry about penalties if you're led by the spirit you're not under the penalties of the law because many of those consequences continue in a spiritual sense beyond the law God is not pleased if you do a lot of the things that are proscribed morally in the law the works of the flesh are evident now we're getting to our subject here which are number one is not in the best text where it says adultery and i suggest you scratch it out it's i don't think it's there i think somebody said well as long as you're going to have a list let's put that one in maybe somebody that was victimized by that particular thing the first word is is the second one here fornication this is our greek word pornia and pornia is at the head of the list not because some sort of physical promiscuity is the worst thing you can do but if you remember our word study on pornia and it as a basis for divorce the one justification for dissolving a marriage is pornia and it is infidelity it is faithlessness to the commitment there is a commitment and you don't have to be married to have this commitment you're either committed to God and the things of God and you look forward to the person you're going to be married to or you're married to them and you look back but whatever it may be it is faithfulness to the standard faithfulness to God's model and God's structure in marriage and family and so on and to be treacherous and to be false and to betray someone adultery is covered under pornia pornia is any act of faithlessness it can be spiritual pornia it can be social pornia it can be physical pornia that it is any falseness two-facedness saying one thing and doing another putting up a false front and thinking something else that's pornia all of the things that are that you associate with pornos and its derivative words fall under that but it's not limited to that

and the core of it the root of it the root of pōrnia is being false betraying a trust betraying a covenant betraying a pledge disregarding the notion that was in the marriage vows for traditionally for a long time I plight thee my truth I pledge you my truth when you fail in that that's pōrnia and everything else flows out of it so that's the first one and then you get to in verse 19 a catharsis you know what a catharsis is it's a you come to a transforming moment and a catharsis is when something that's been plaguing you or bothering you is suddenly resolved and it's the removal of the tumor it's a literally catharsis has the idea of a cleansing it means to cleanse or to be cleaned well this is a catharsia and you've got the alpha privative in front which negates it unclean impure corrupt defiled do you ever open up a little container for food and you find something in there that's not supposed to be there I've found everything from dead flies to staples to not not at home I'm talking about out we've got great catharsia here in the house I'm not impugning anybody here at all but out you know waiter there's a fly in my soup that's a catharsia in a in sort of a humorous way but spiritually speaking to be impure it doesn't take much the whole idea of a catharsis a catharsia and and the Hebrew behind it in the law you could have washed have clean clothes on fresh sandals you walked out on a on a day if you so much as lay the tip of your index finger on a dead body you are unclean all of you one touch one momentary contact one drop of of blood and you're unclean until evening right one drop of human blood you're unclean your normal bodily fluids can render you unclean and it only takes a little so when you see that uh the works of the flesh are these pōrnia uncleanness a little leaven leavens the whole lump a little cancer will metastasize and our spiritual task is to find those small compromises those small contacts with evil and eliminate them so that we are not a catharsia unclean it only takes a little we tend to say well it's it's a small thing it's minor it's trivial it's unimportant not if it renders you unclean the third one is aselgeia a-s-e-l-g-e-i-a translated here lewdness lewdness this is lack of standards uh it's translated sometimes licentiousness you feel like you've got a license to do anything you you know well you can't practice medicine without a license you can't practice law without a license but if you are aselgeia you practice law anyway you do brain surgery anyway you do what you think you need to do and you don't pay any attention to the prohibition or the restriction or the limit aselgeia it's coloring outside the lines it's trampling the standards it's disregarding the limits that's what that is so lewdness again i don't know that king james new king james translators tended to translate everything into into physical terms but it's it's more than that now we're getting to our verse this this is where i've been trying to get now for the last 20 minutes galatians 5 20 look at this list it's got idolatry and sorcery idolatry what does paul say is idolatry covetousness this is wanting stuff you don't have this is too much shopping channel this is too much time on amazon prime this is too many orders on amazon prime um covetousness is thinking i'm going to have a good day when i get something i currently don't have that's idolatry tria and in the christian community to whom paul was writing there wasn't a big problem with terafeme and and little figures it was covetousness and if you had idols it's because you had friends who all worshiped that same deity diana of the ephesians or whoever

and you wanted to be in that circle so you'd put a little statue of diana and so that when they came over ah you're you're one of the group you're you're in the inner circle coveting approval coveting entrance into the club coveting material things coveting advancement coveting influence idolatry just put down i want dot dot dot the next one is pharmakeia and this is i will go outside the normal to feel good internally this can be going to the pharmacy this can also be going to demons pharmakeia is associated with but this is appealing to a power either chemical or spiritual other than god in places where it should be god i'm the biggest fan of ibuprofen there is but god didn't promise to be a pain pill but in areas where god is the answer in terms of peace freedom focus spiritual priorities guidance and circumstance the ability to do things that don't come to my nature that should be done the ability to be more loving more joyful more peaceful more long-suffering more gentle more good what am i doing i'm going down the list of the fruit of the spirit you don't get the fruit of spirit out of a bottle and you don't get it out of a pastime many of those pastimes are pathways to doctrine of demons and demons themselves that's pharmakeia now these next words all are what jesus is talking about in matthew chapter 10 the first one here is strife this is the greek word aris and it means quarreling wrangling i was tuning a piano in a house and there was you know the teenagers are all trapped at home they can't go to school so there's a brother and sister there oh my gosh an hour and a half of wrangling about utterly inconsequential things and then the mother we have guests you know we have a guest and and it just couldn't get out of there fast enough but wrangling shouldn't be happening in the household of faith no problem having a difference of opinion but what happens is we begin to think that being right is more important than being loving than maintaining peace i speak to you as somebody with a lot of experience of failure in this area so all of those of you who know me don't think that i'm saying this without awareness of my own failures but exposing it and identifying is one of the ways to get at it and let the power of god fix it and it's easy to think that being right or scoring a point or making a point it just seems so important in the moment but if you could objectively stand outside yourself and say do you really want to sacrifice valuable things on that altar do you want to satisfy that urge at that price at that cost you can walk around smugly being right and and what have you done to your relationships what have you done to the feelings of others around you uh i speak from long experience in this it is not worth it but it is given here not just as an individual problem but a problem in groups of believers between groups of believers i'm right about this doctrinal point you all are wrong and in centuries past they would kill him this is we can we can kill him he's a heretic and we do the same thing in smaller ways so strife this this is the word eris e-r-i-s and it means quarreling wrangling just bickering over things the next one is jealousy but this is actually in greek jealousy too much zeal getting over invested in something the word is zelos z-e-l-o-s zealous i'm just too invested in this thing that of course leads to jealousy you're over invested in a person you overreact if somebody else pays attention to them and so on but it's bigger it's not just i'm i'm jealous of your situation jealous of your person jealous of whatever this is zealous i'm this is over investment the next word is thumoi this is

anger bursts of wrath is a really good translation i like i like what they've done here uh thumos this is passion that explodes you're going along going along and you just have this flash of impatience flash of anger flash of of passion you you cannot maintain your self-control certain things happen and you just go off the next one is contentions now why are we going through this list a man's enemies will be the members of his own household brother against brother husband and wife parents and children children and parents in-laws and outlaws this is in the household of faith these are the things that create that hostility that jesus is talking about this is where it starts you don't have children delivering their parents up to be executed without this happening first this creates the crack that becomes the chasm that makes that kind of thing possible and it's in-house it doesn't come from the outside it comes from us so outbursts of wrath the next one says selfish ambition this is factionalizing taking sides choosing sides and then defending that side to the death the next one is dissensions that was epithea by the way if you're it's almost like epithelial cells epithelium or whatever but this is epithea epithea e-i-a epithea and the next one is dichostasia you can see the die at the beginning this is two things die costasia and this is dissensions this is this is again being on one side of a division in the household in the group that's supposed to be one lord one faith one baptism one god and father of us all one lord jesus christ what happens you're you've split you've let something divide that which should not be divided we are incautious and again i speak from experience we are incautious about creating an issue that is minor and endangering something that is major you make a small point and maybe you win it and maybe you score you win that little battle and you've you've lost a war and you've taken casualties and you've inflicted casualties that should not have been on the line for an issue that small it's easily done it's done because of our corrupt nature it's done because we are not paying attention to what we know and jesus says over and over again beware beware watch out these are the works of the flesh if you're led by the spirit you're not going to be in danger of penalty for these things dissensions heresies look at the rest of the list i don't have time to look at them all envy uh you can leave off murders i don't think that's there just scribble it out just like adultery somebody thought they could flesh out the list and sneak one in and murder is typically not a problem in brother-on-brother spiritual violence we're not actually murdering each other um drunkenness this is self-centered gratification self-gratification at the expense of others revelries this is getting distracted by pleasure and forgetting the important things you know revelers don't show up for work on time they don't come back home when they said they would they don't pick up the kids at school reveling you're busy indulging in pleasure and missing responsibilities of which i tell you beforehand as i told you in time past those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of god what is the message the disciples are taking to the people of israel change your mind because the kingdom of heaven is an opportunity the kingdom of god is here and you're standing on the threshold are you going to walk in and inherit or not that's the issue for you and me and it is a matter of being careful about what's going on in the household in among our own kind it's another thing entirely persecution on the outside and oppression and

opposition and suppression from outside sources but this the governors the kings the councils the synagogues that Jesus talks about are all in the case of the disciples Jews Herod claimed to be a Jew right the Sanhedrin were Jews the synagogue leaders were Jews they're going to their own people and Jesus says I'm sending you out of sheep among wolves and they say what we're going to our own our own towns I want to show you something in closing here go back to Matthew chapter 10 and uh it's a fascinating little detail I haven't been able to find anybody to talk about it but uh we're we're going to see in chapter 11 verse 1 it came to pass when Jesus finished commanding his 12 disciples that he departed from there to teach and to preach where what are the last three words and the second to last word in particular when he finished commanding his 12 disciples and they've gone out Jesus departed from there to teach and preach where whose cities what's the antecedent of there the disciples he has sent the disciples out to other towns and villages and if you read this closely and take it literally we want to say well when he says there he's just talking about the Jews in general but the antecedent is he finished commanding his 12 disciples he departed from there to teach and preach in their cities this would be Capernaum for Peter and Andrew and James and John and uh wherever the other disciples are from Jesus evidently it would seem it says their cities so who's they it looks like the disciples to me and it's interesting because they have been sent elsewhere and Jesus is going to their towns they haven't been sent to their own towns what did Jesus say about going to your own town a prophet is not without honor except so what are the villages they won't be going to their own so Jesus himself is going to go there interesting final detail but all of this it's it's intramural and we want to focus whether the Lord Jesus comes today in two weeks in two years in two decades if we come to the end of our life first and meet him in the air as those who rise first the standard by which we're going to be measured is very like the standard at the sheep and goats judgment how did you treat your fellow person in need when I was naked did you clothe me when I was thirsty and hungry did you meet those needs when I was sick and in prison did you visit me how did you treat me because if you've done it the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me if we kept in mind as we engage in our daily lives together that our treatment of each other and our treatment of fellow believers at large whether they are in other denominations or churches or groups or ministries or whatever if we looked at them and said what I do to them I'm basically doing to the Lord Jesus how much hate speech would there be on the internet about people who disagree or have a different point of view how much disagreement and hostility and heat would there be in our differences of opinion between each other if we said if I'm spiteful or snotty or hateful or disrespectful or unkind or insensitive and hurtful in my conversation with this person in my periphery would I do that to the Lord Jesus would I talk that way to the Lord Jesus would I be that way with him if you've done it to the least of these my brethren and there's nobody more my brethren than the body of Christ itself and we are all its members so our priority as we look at this passage is to think about the way we treat each other act around each other and where does the power come from to repent and change our mind because the kingdom is at hand and

what is what is the warning no inheritance in the kingdom for people who disregard it the kingdom is at hand for us just like it was for them and the message is change your mind what do we need to change our mind about i would submit that this is a great place to start let's close here in a word of prayer we'll pick up and cover this concluding section in matthew chapter 10 we haven't really talked about this final section and then move into chapter 11 next time father thank you for the truth of your word thank you for its instruction rebuke and correction in righteousness we thank you for the power and presence of your spirit because we are incapable of changing ourselves we can't pull ourselves out of the mire by our own bootstraps but you have not only presented to us what we need but how to accomplish it we pray that as we reflect on these things that your holy spirit will energize us motivate us remind us of who we are and why we're here so that our lives will reflect your glory and the glory of the lord jesus christ we pray these things in his name amen