

29-Aug-2021 | Discussion Questions
The True Spirit of the Law | Matthew 5:21-32 | Bro Wong Yoke Ming

1. It has been said that the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matt. 5-7) reflected the intent or the “spirit of the Law”, but the Law of Moses (Exodus 20:1-17) was seen merely as the Law which needed to be complied with; much like the laws of any country today with the penal codes as punishment for breaking the law of the land. What are your own views on this?
2. The present-day penal codes punish wrongdoers with jail (or worse). This is evident in all countries. Has punishment for crimes and other wrong doings reduced, in anyway, crime rates and intensity in any country that you know of? Are you aware of statistics that indicate significant reduction in the number of repeat offenders in any country? Why do you think this is so?
3. In the original ‘Ten Commandments’, ‘covetousness’ (or lust) was the tenth, or last, commandment. Why do you think Jesus in this passage under discussion from Matthew 5 taught about ‘lust’ between ‘murder’ and ‘adultery’? Discuss your reasoning and how it brings out the difference between intent and compliance in law.
4. If, as in verses 29 and 30, your right eye causes you to sin and you gouge it out, and your right hand causes you to sin and you cut it off, how would you ensure that your left eye and your left hand will not cause you to sin? If there is no such guarantee, then what is the intent of this teaching?
5. What does this passage, in reference to Matthew 5:20, teach us about the letter of the Law and the spirit of the Law, particularly as we read Jeremiah 23:5-6?