

Matthew's Gospel

Chapter 5a

"They said three things: Be careful in judgment; raise up many disciples; and make a fence for the Torah."

∞ Pirkei Avot 1:1

4b

5

4a

“... it occurred to me that since it is clear that man is a composite of body and soul, one of which is apparent and the other unapparent – we are consequently obliged so serve God in an apparent and unapparent fashion.”

✎ R' Bachya ibn Pakuda (11th century)

“You have heard it said...”

“You have heard it said...” does not refer only to the words of Moses, but to the entire body of traditions and extra rabbinical commandments elicited by each quote. Whenever Yeshua said, *“You have heard ...”* instead of *“It is written...”* we know that this is the case.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Read Matthew 5 and list the six Torah commandments that Yeshua quotes.**
- 2. Identify the internal “Fence” that He advises for each of these commandments.**

1. *“You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to a court of law.”*
(5:21)

The Fence: (a) Do not become angry.
(b) But if you do, deal with it quickly.

2. *“You shall not commit adultery.”* (5:27)

The Fence: (a) Do not lust in your heart
(b) And if you do, deal with it quickly.

3. *“If a man sends his wife away, he must give her a certificate of divorce.”* (5:31)

The Fence: Do not [selfishly] misuse the Torah.

4. *“You shall not swear falsely, but you shall perform your oaths to HaShem.”* (5:33)

The Fence: Do not make oaths.

5. “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.”
(5:38)

The Fence: Go beyond what you owe another.

Exodus 21:18-19, 24-27

*When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist and the man does not die but takes to his bed, then if the man rises again and walks outdoors with his staff, he who struck him shall be clear; only **he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall have him thoroughly healed ... eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.** When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, **he shall let the servant go free because of his eye.** If he knocks out the tooth of his servant, male or female, **he shall let the servant go free because of his tooth.***

6. ***“Love your fellow” and “Hate your enemy.”***
(5:43)

The Fence: Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you, so that you will be sons of your Father who is in Heaven...

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review these six commandments again and describe how each one logically flows from the preceding one.
2. In other words, there is a logical order to these six commandments. What is it?

BRIDGES:

1-2 Anger → lust & adultery.

“Murder” - רָצַח (rah-TZACH) = “to shatter”

(Psalm 42:10 / Ezekiel21:22)

Anger can “shatter” a marriage and lead to an affair.

2-3 Lust & adultery → divorce.

Lust and adultery lead to divorce

3-4 ***Divorce***  ***failed promises to God.***

(NOTE: Yeshua's warning is primarily to men!)

4-5 ***Failed promises to God***
  ***lack of devotion to others.***

Faithless talk leads to faithless action.

or

Faithful words lead to faithful action.

5-6 *Devotion to others*

 *love for one's enemy.*

If I can exceed my obligations to others, I can be generous even where there is no obligation!

6-1 *How can I be angry with my enemy if I love him?*