



# Law & Order

## Matthew 5:17-26

### GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song**

“Hinei Ma Tov Umanaim”

Hinei ma tov umanaim; Shevet achim gam yachad [verse twice]

Hinei ma tov umanaim Lai-la- lai lai-lai-lai lai-lai -lai lai-lai [verse twice]

Behold how good and how pleasant it is; For people to dwell together [verse twice]

In unity, in unity; Lai-la- lai lai-lai-lai lai-lai -lai lai-lai [verse twice]

- **Hear the Story...**

### READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

### RESPONDING

- **The Pharisees are often portrayed as excessively legalistic – what does Jesus mean by exceeding them in ‘righteousness’?**
- **Why would calling someone a ‘fool’ deserve the worst punishment?**
- **Why would settling a grudge be important to do before an offering?**

### SHARING

- **Do you see Jesus as someone who was ‘abolishing’ or ‘fulfilling’ tradition?**
- **What is the best way to reconcile differences with others?**

### CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Matthew 5:17-26 [NRSV]

17 ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;  
I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.

18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away,  
not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law  
until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments,  
and teaches others to do the same,  
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven;  
but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great  
in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that  
of the scribes and Pharisees,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 ‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times,  
“You shall not murder”; and  
“whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.”

22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister,  
you will be liable to judgement;

and if you insult a brother or sister,  
you will be liable to the council;

and if you say, “You fool”,  
you will be liable to the hell of fire.

23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar,  
if you remember that your brother or sister  
has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go;  
first be reconciled to your brother or sister,  
and then come and offer your gift.

25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser  
while you are on the way to court with him,  
or your accuser may hand you over to the judge,  
and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out  
until you have paid the last penny.