Bible Study 14

Jesus’ Interpretation of the Law

• Matthew 5:27
  – Adultery occurs 52 times in the Bible.

• Exodus 20:14
  – 6th Commandment. One of the most frequently and severely condemned sins.

• Proverbs 6:32
  – “But a man commits adultery lacks judgement; whoever does so destroys himself.”

• Matthew 16:14
  – Mention of Adulterous generation. This refers to unfaithfulness and disloyalty.

• New Interpretation includes desire too
  – Matthew 5:29 - The New interpretation can be disciplining one’s eyes and one’s hands.
Eye for an Eye

• Turning the other cheek.
  – Being kind to your offender and accuser.
  – It was Gandhi who said, “Eye for an eye will make the whole world blind”.

• George Lamsa: Aramaic scholar
  – Hitting on the right cheek by a right-handed man - can hit only with the back of one’s hand - which is interpreted as insult.

• When we pray for our enemies, enemies don’t change. We change.
Perfection

- Matthew 5:48 - “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

- The meaning of perfection in the Bible relates to a state of completeness or absolute wholeness. (Shalom).
  - Biblical perfection involves freedom from fault, defect, or shortcoming,
  - In the New Testament a Greek term for “perfection” can also mean “maturity”.

- The Bible expresses perfection in at least three different contexts.
  - The perfection of God.
  - The perfection of Christ.
  - The perfection of humans.

- Psalm 18:30 - “His way is perfect......refuge in him.”

- Psalm 19:7 & James 1:25 - “God’s laws are also perfect.”
6 Dimensions of Wholeness

1. Enlivening one’s mind.
2. Revitalizing one’s body.
3. Renewing and enriching one’s intimate relationships.
4. Deepening one’s relationship with nature and the biosphere.
5. Growth in relation to significant institutions in one’s life.
6. Deepening and vitalizing one’s relationship with God.