



Introduction

Jesus gives standards of behaviour to aim for.



Questions

1. What did Jesus say was as bad as murder?
2. What did Jesus say about swearing oaths?
3. Why should we love our enemies?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 12** Jesus lists the characteristics of those who are blessed and gives the consequences
- **v 13 to 16** Jesus tells his followers that their light should be seen by others which should make them glorify God
- **v 17 to 48** He lifts standards of behaviour to a new level, and tells us that the intention is as bad as the deed (see theme). He gives advice on:
 - anger (v 21 and 22)
 - problems with our brothers (v 23 to 26)
 - sexual attraction (v 27 to 30)
 - divorce (v 31 and 32)
 - vows (v 33 to 37)
 - attitudes to those who would harm us (v 38 to 42)
 - loving our enemies (v 43 to 48)

Timeline AD 30 (see below)



Theme

Bad thoughts are related to bad deeds

A selection of verses showing that our bad thoughts are as bad as our deeds or can lead to bad deeds.

Jesus reminds his followers that bad thoughts are as bad as the deeds in his teaching on the mount in Matthew 5:

Matthew 5 verses 21 and 22, 27 and 28

The apostle Paul tells Timothy that wanting to be rich can lead to all kinds of bad actions:

1 Timothy 6 verses 9 and 10

The apostle John tells us that hating our brother is as bad as murdering him:

1 John 3 verses 14 and 15

The apostle James tells us that strife comes from our desires:

James 4 verses 1 to 3



Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 22, Q 2: v 34 and 37, Q 3: v 44 and 45

Bible timeline

