

CONNECTION POINTS (cont'd.)

2. Maximum Living is living beyond the limits and asking not how little you can do, but how much you can do to please the Father. How can you apply this to the following:

- Forgiving (Matthew 18: 21, 22)
- Tithes and offerings (Mark 12: 41-44)
- Love (Matthew 5: 43-48)

3. Read 1 John 3: 11-18.

- What is the evidence of having eternal life?
- What is the foundation of our love?
- What are practical ways that you can turn loving words into loving actions?

BEYOND THE LIMITS

Raising The Bar

Matthew 5: 21-30

THE BIG PICTURE:

Righteousness is more than righteous behaviour. It is behaviour that flows out of a righteous heart.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Murder and Anger

Matthew 5: 21-26

- When God judges, He looks for the evidence in the heart.
- Reconciliation...one's vertical relationship with God is very closely linked with one's horizontal relationship with people.
Animosity toward others gets in the way of worshipping God.

2. Adultery and Lust

Matthew 5: 27, 28

- Sin begins in the heart
- The problem is not the first look; it's the second look

DIGGING DEEPER (cont'd.)

3. Spiritual Amputation

Matthew 5: 29,30

- Deal ruthlessly with sin or it will deal ruthlessly with you.

4. The Destructive Consequences of Sin

Matthew 5: 29,30

5. Preventative Fencing

6. Living by the Maximum

CONNECTION POINTS

1. Jesus is employing a rabbinic method of teaching called **fencing**. The rabbis would guard against breaking the great commands by putting up fences of smaller commands around it. If you obeyed the smaller, then that would prevent you from breaking the greater commands. To guard against murder one must check anger. To guard against adultery, one must check lust.

What preventative fences can you suggest to guard against yielding to the following situations?

- An affair with a flirtatious fellow-worker at the office
- Addiction to pornographic web sites
- Gossip
- Bitterness (Matthew 5: 23,24)

