* **Review SOTM**
  + Six Weeds - Jesus puts forward six particular aspects of the law in which the outward action of obedience was being walked out by the scribes and Pharisees, but the death within the heart still remained. Jesus places the priority on righteousness in the inward parts that produces outward righteousness. (Mat. 5:17-20)
    - Spirit of murder - Thoughts and words that come forth in our distain for certain individuals and our desire be free of them is the same spirit of murder as the actual action of murder. (Mat. 5:21-26)

• Spirit of covetousness – Evil desires to have what is forbidden for us to have. Covetousness is rooted in selfishness and fueled by sight and sensual interaction. (Mat. 5:27-30)

* + - Spirit of Treachery – The desire to use relational covenants for our personal gain or benefit. (Mat. 5:31-32)
    - Spirit of Manipulation – The desire to control a desired outcome of peoples views or actions towards us. (Mat. 5:33-37)
* **Exposing the spirit of Revenge (Mat. 5:38-42)**
  + Eye for an Eye – This particular passage is high on the list of the most well known and quotes passages in the bible. Unfortunately, like many well known passages it is often quoted out of context and misapplied. The context for this passage was proper compensation for crimes of abuse or neglect in the court system, it demanded that the punishment fit the crime. It was actually put in place mostly to keep people from taking revenge and going way beyond “just” compensation. (Ex. 21:1-27; Lev. 24:17-22)
    - Disproportionate Vengeance - Our propensity in seeking justice is to far beyond equal punishment and into the realm of inflicting greater pain or loss than was inflicted upon us. If someone knocks out a one tooth of ours, our propensity is to respond by knocking out all their teeth. That is why this law was given.
    - Perfect Vengeance - To God and God alone belongs the ability to execute perfect justice (vengeance) for injustice and we can rest in our hearts that all acts of injustice will be perfectly avenged. (Ps. 91:1-23)
    - In light of these two truths, we are commanded and encouraged to rid our hearts of the inclination to seek out and take vengeance into our own hands and trust in the Lord to bring justice. (Lev. 19:18)
* **Resisting Revenge Upon the Evil Man**
  + The next portion of teaching that Jesus gave on the theme of revenge is often misunderstood, quoted, and taught far beyond the context of clarity in which Jesus gave us concerning the resisting of the evil man. Jesus goes after the petty, momentary inconveniences to our character, dignity, and strength that stir up vengeance in our hearts. Many times this teaching way beyond this context and into the realm of large life altering attacks from evil men. This is an error.
    - Pacifism - This is one of the most debated passages in the Bible related to pacifism (forbidding the use of all force). Civil leaders are God’s servants to resist evil. War, police, and prisons are a part of God’s order in a fallen world. We are to defend ourselves and others from evil men. The abuse of a wife or child is always to be resisted as evil. Jesus told His disciples to carry a sword to defend themselves, taught us how to resist one who sins against us, resisted the officer who struck Him and cleansed the temple with a whip. (Mat. 18:15-17. 22:36; Jhn. 2:14-16; Acts. 5:1-11, 16:37; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:1-11, 6:1-8; Gal. 2:11-14)
  + I believe in this portion of the SOTM Jesus is calling us to live with a liberated heart that is free from the spirit of revenge, defensiveness, and entitlement and their continual complaints against others. Many people live consumed and in continual turmoil about people not saying the right things or treating them with the honor they deserve. Jesus wants to free our hearts from being stuck in our demands for honor, to be treated right, or to not be inconvenienced.
    - Whoever Slaps You – In the culture of the first century a common expression of insulting someone was to slap them on the right cheek in public. Jesus is not talking about someone trying to take your life or even physically damage you. He is talking specifically into the realm of an individual who is insulting or publicly slandering you. He tells us that when someone does this to us that we are to resist the fallen heart response to retaliate in kind. Jesus calls us instead to respond in the opposite spirit and let them insult and slander us. (1 Cor. 4:12-13; Pet. 3:8-17)
    - Whoever Sues You – Jesus is very clear that we talking about a petty lawsuit here like something we would bring to a small claims court. They want to sue us and take our “tunic/shirt” not our business or home. In that day a shirt was worth the equivalent to around 500 dollars today. Jesus once again calls us to respond to this type of personal attack in the opposite spirit of what’s natural. Not only give them the 500 but give them more than that, “cloak/coat”. This will absolutely devastate your pride and set your financial situation back, but it wont destroy your life. (1 Cor. 6:4-7)
    - Whoever Compels You – The word translated “compels” means to have governmental authority to impose ones will. In that day a Roman soldier had legal authority to require a man to carry his gear for up to one mile. So in this case Jesus is addressing the infringement of our time, strengh, and personal rights by authoritative figures such as the government or a manager. Once again Jesus puts this in the context of a small inconvenient thing that hurts our pride. When someone who is in authority over us requires us to do something we think we shouldn’t have to do, we get resentful, bitter, and hateful.
      * + Almost everyone obeys the governmental and managerial demands upon them, however our hearts are far from patient, joyful, willing endurance as we obey. Jesus is not calling us to become indentured servants or telling us not to not to stand up for our rights. He is addressing the death that we invite into our hearts through our ungodly responses to bearing inconvenient and unjust demands. We are to serve cheerfully and bear these inconveniences with a clean heart.
    - Borrow to Those who Ask – Now the evil man that has oppressed us wants to borrow from us. Jesus tells us to give to him with a generous spirit. Once again Jesus is not telling us to give all our money away to anyone all the time. The application of this principle must remain in the context and qualified by other scriptures. For example we are not to give to the “lazy man” and empower people to continue in lifestyles of death (drugs or alcoholism) by supporting them to continue in it. (Pr. 11:15, 17:18, 22:26; 2 Thes. 3:10)
      * + Jesus is referring here to our heart posture to resist bitterness and defensiveness to the evil man who troubles us and when he requests of us, we embrace the opportunity and respond in the grace and beauty of God.
* Transformation
  + We position ourselves to be free of the fallen desires of taking revenge, harboring resentment, and defensiveness by beholding the glory of Jesus in His commitment to Gods righteous justice, and His desire for eternal rewards. (Is. 53:7-12; Mat. 27:39-44; Lk. 22:64-65; Heb. 12:1-6; 1 Pet. 2:18-25)