

GOSPEL PEARLS

Not only formal obedience

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Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, Raga, will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny." (Matthew 5: 20-26)

Jesus asks each one of us with a conscience and, thus, capable of listening to Him, to seek a pure and disinterested observance of His teachings. Jesus reminds us that the commandments must help us love God and our neighbour as we love ourselves. Following God's commandments, therefore, is not just a question of formal obedience. Let us not answer Christ's call in vain.