



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE AND TO DO

Week 5

A Christian's Righteousness: Interpreting the law in its truth.



A Christian's Righteousness: Interpreting the law in its truth.

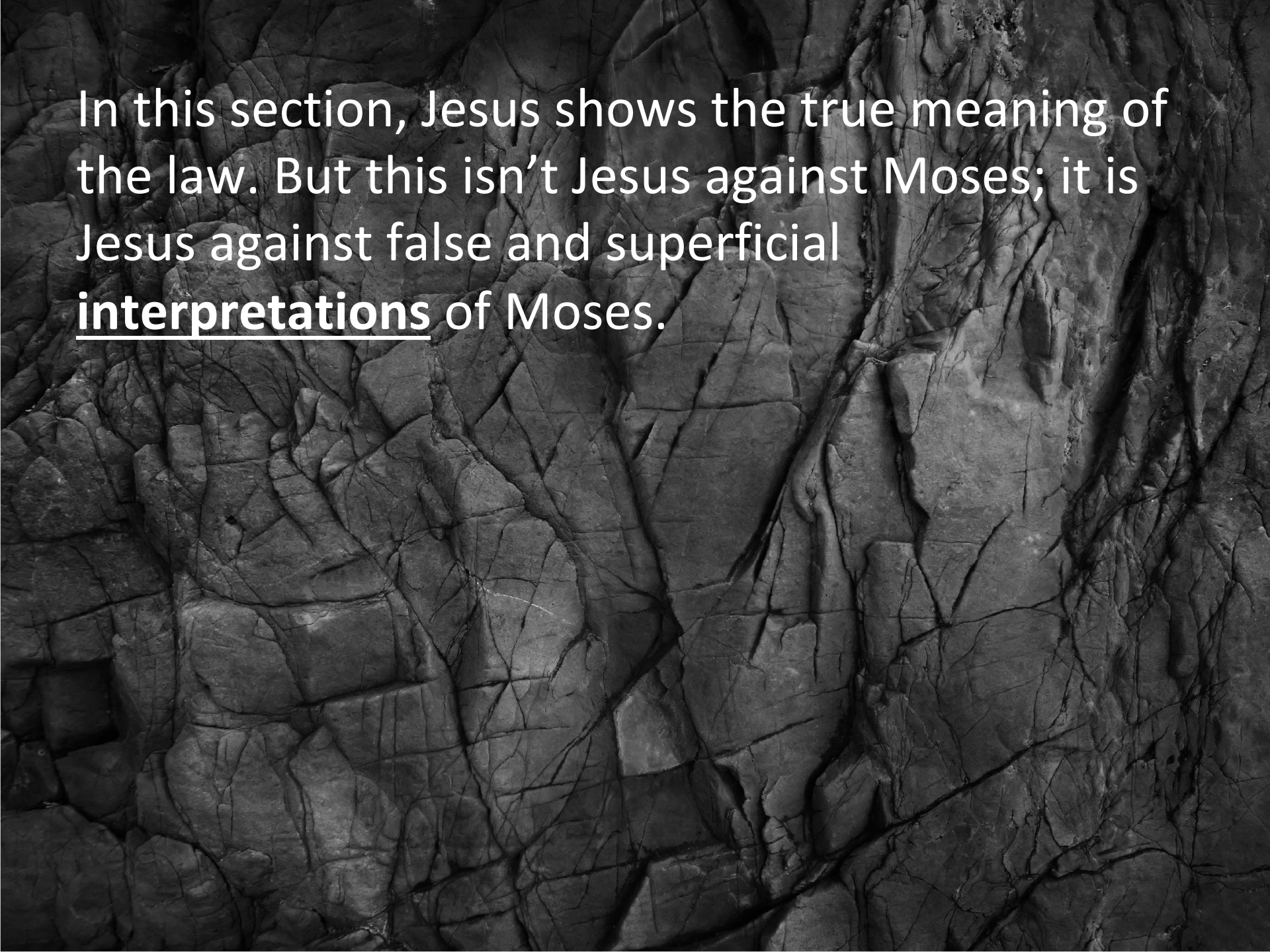
Matthew 5:21-30 NIV

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell”.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift”.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny”.

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell”.



In this section, Jesus shows the true meaning of the law. But this isn't Jesus against Moses; it is Jesus against false and superficial interpretations of Moses.

I. Jesus interprets the law against murder.

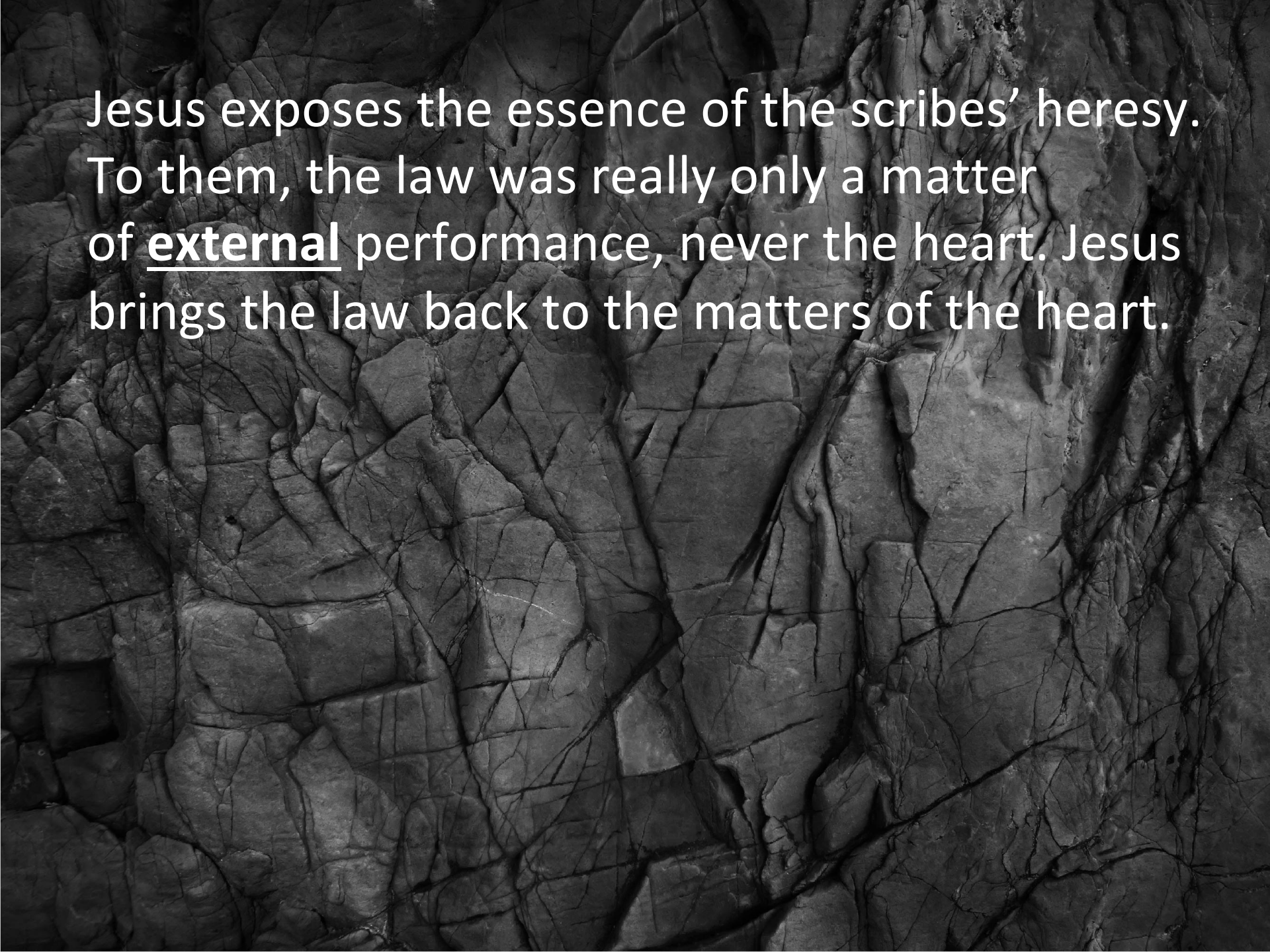
Matthew 5:21-22 NIV

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell”.



1 John 3:15 NLT

¹⁵ Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.



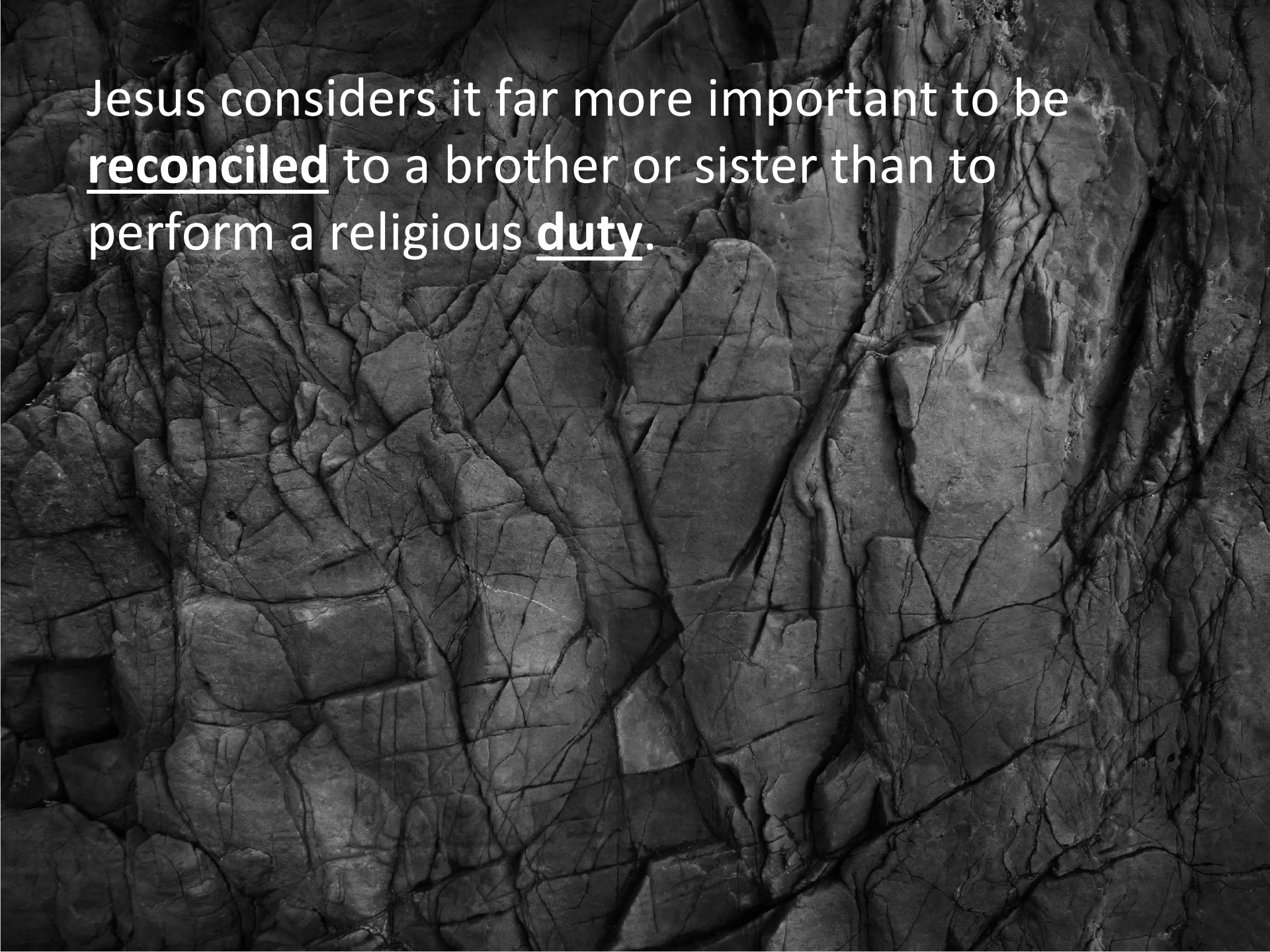
Jesus exposes the essence of the scribes' heresy. To them, the law was really only a matter of external performance, never the heart. Jesus brings the law back to the matters of the heart.

II. Jesus deals with problem personal relationships.

Matthew 23-26 NIV

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift”.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny”.



Jesus considers it far more important to be reconciled to a brother or sister than to perform a religious duty.



Romans 12:18 NLT

¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

III. Jesus interprets the law against adultery.

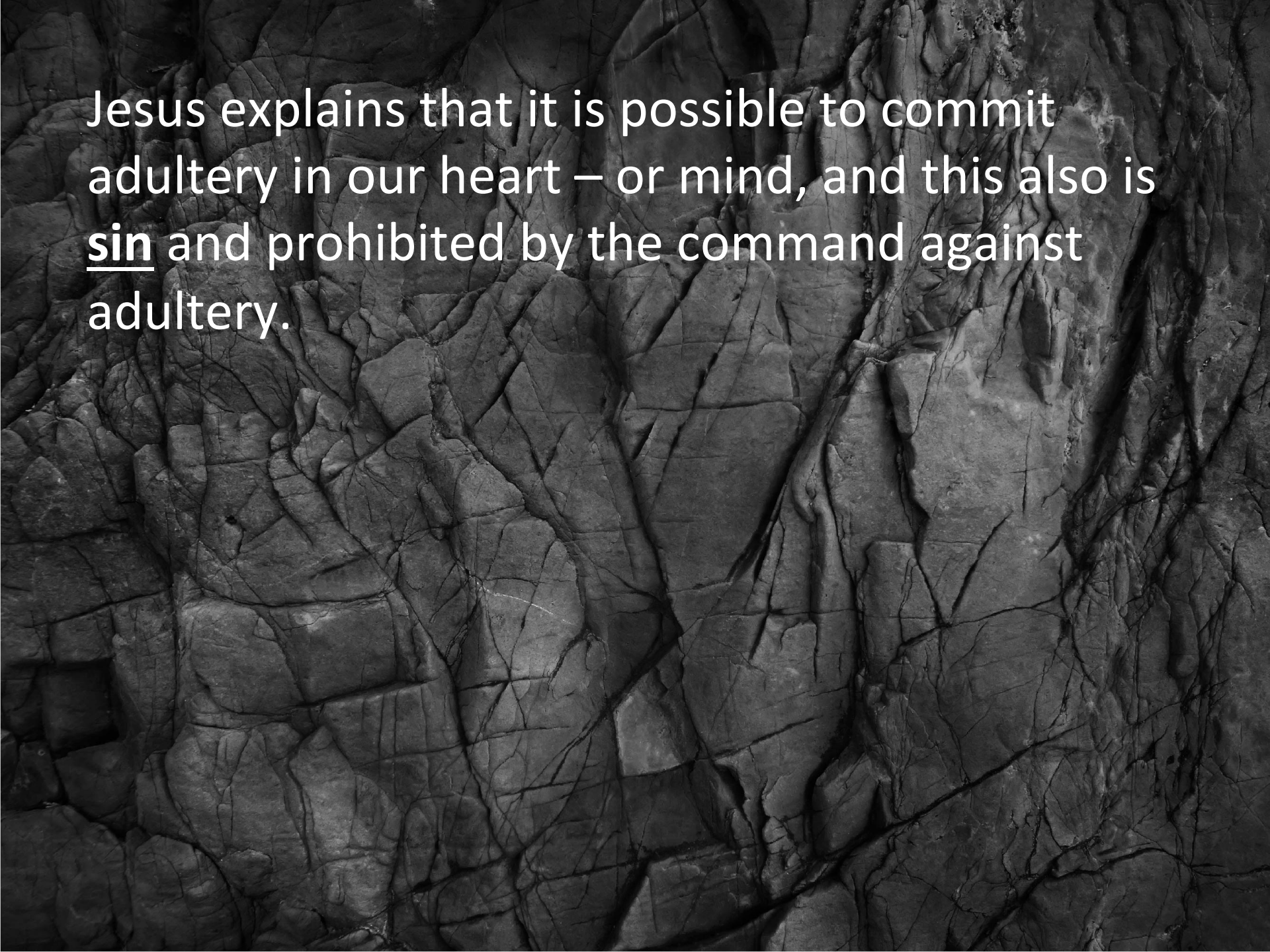
Matthew 5:27-28 NIV

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”.



Job 31:1 NLT

“I made a covenant with my eyes
not to look with lust at a young woman”.



Jesus explains that it is possible to commit adultery in our heart – or mind, and this also is sin and prohibited by the command against adultery.

IV. Jesus explains our attitude towards our war against sin.

Matthew 5:29-30 NIV

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.



Jesus is simply stressing the point that one must be willing to practice moral self-denial.

Mark 8:34 NIV

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”.



If your eye causes you to sin, don't look.

Romans 8:1-4 ESV



If your eye causes you to sin, don't look.
If your foot causes you to sin, don't go.



If your eye causes you to sin, don't look.
If your foot causes you to sin, don't go.
If your hand causes you to sin, don't do it.

