

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E27

Reconciliation is better than worship - Matthew 5:23-26

Description – Join us today as we look at Matthew 5

We're back today, looking again at the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:23-26

²³ So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you 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 with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

Jesus here says that if you're coming to worship, and remember that someone has something against you, you need to go and be reconciled with that person.

Your relationship with God can be directly impacted by your relationship with others.

Notice what Jesus doesn't say. He doesn't say, "if you have something against someone else..." NO! He says, "If a brother or sister has something against you."

Do you live in a world where someone is holding something against you?

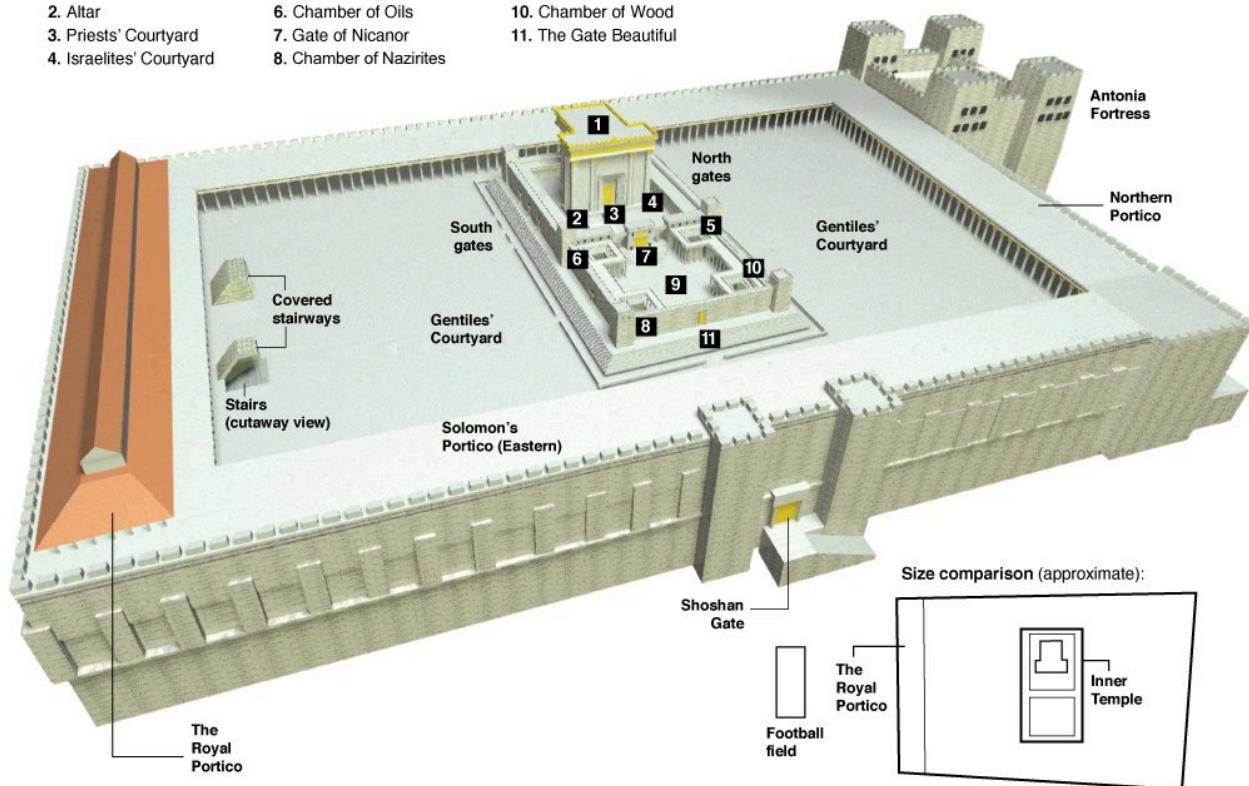
Jesus is painting a picture here. When he says "there at the altar" we think, "church." But in reality, he's talking about the altar of sacrifice in the Temple courtyard.

See Temple Mount / Temple diagrams below:

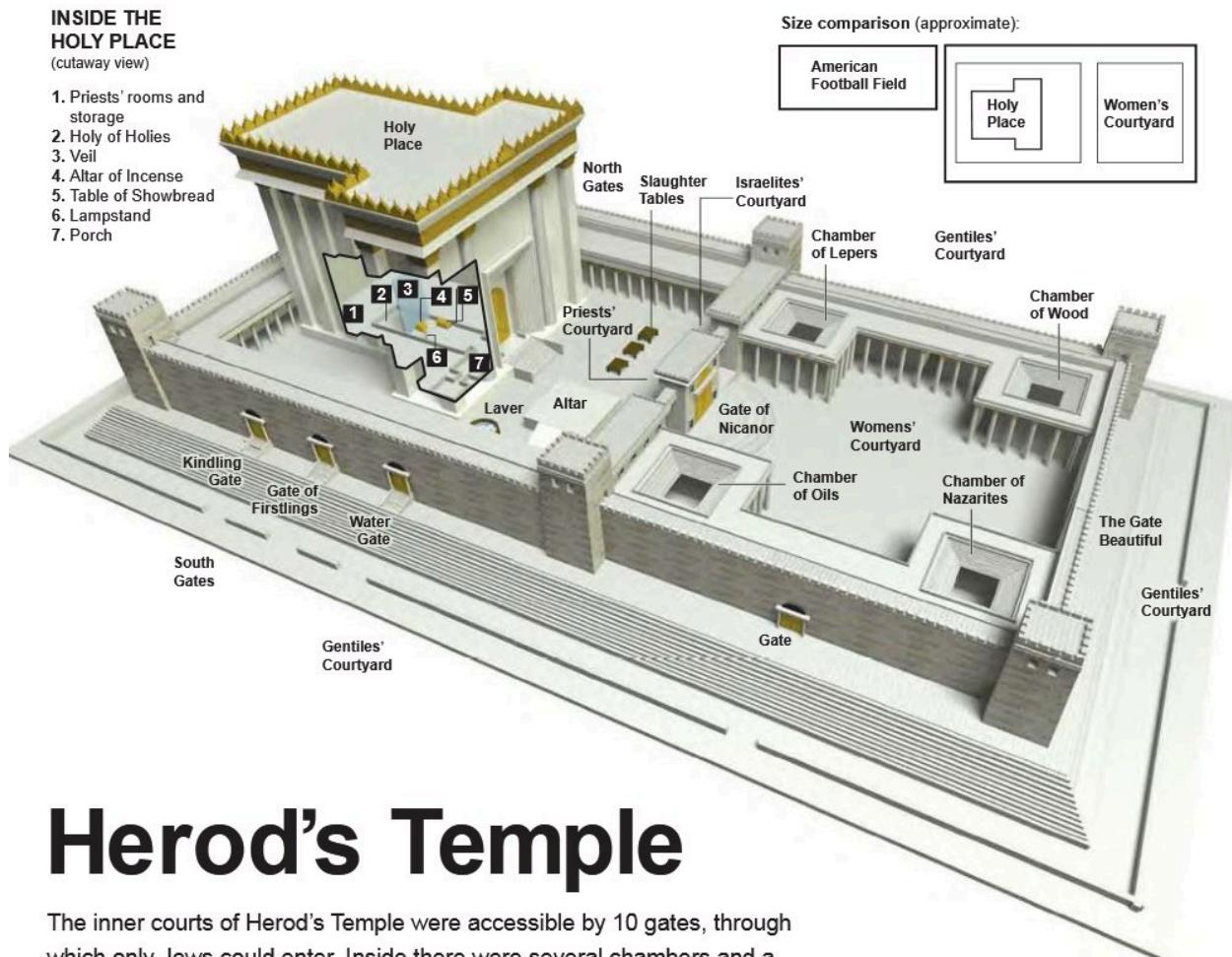
Herod's Temple on the Temple Mount

Herod the Great began renovations on the Temple around 20 BC. The expansion of the Temple and the Temple Mount was completed around AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

- 1. Holy Place
- 2. Altar
- 3. Priests' Courtyard
- 4. Israelites' Courtyard
- 5. Chamber of Lepers
- 6. Chamber of Oils
- 7. Gate of Nicanaor
- 8. Chamber of Nazirites
- 9. Womens' Courtyard
- 10. Chamber of Wood
- 11. The Gate Beautiful



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2008 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE



Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Inside there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At one end was the holy place—a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The expansive building project of Herod's Second Temple and Temple Mount was completed in approximately AD 62–64, only to be destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2008 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

So imagine you've brought your goat all the way through this massive complex, and realized you need to be reconciled. It's not a quick walk in or out of the Temple complex.

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ If I had been aware of malice in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Back in Matthew 5, the keyword here is “first.” Don’t wait for the other party to come to you, you go to them.

Don’t raise another hand in worship, don’t sing a song to the Lord, don’t spend time in prayer or bring an offering. Before ANY of that, you go to the party to make amends.

So not only is our relationship with God hindered. Our relationship with others can be hindered. And if you don’t take care of this quickly, it can ramp up publicly, to the point where you find yourself in front of Judge Judy.

Total Forgiveness, by Dr. RT Kendall

<https://www.amazon.com/Total-Forgiveness-R-T-Kendall/dp/1599791765/>

Forgiveness is selfish in a sense. Unforgiveness is a weighted backpack that you’re carrying on you everywhere you go. But as soon as you forgive, it’s freeing. It releases the weight because you take the backpack off and set it down.

An offense against your neighbor builds up a fence between you and God.