

Sermon on the Mount Series
"Jesus Teaches About Anger"
Matthew 5:21-26

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are from the NKJV Bible.

Jesus Taught the Applications of God's Laws.

The people did not need to be more righteous than the scribes and Pharisees in the number of laws that they kept, but they had to be more righteous in the way they kept them. Jesus addressed their motives and attitudes, showing them they could not keep God's laws without a relationship with God.

"You have heard that it was said... But I say to you..."

Matthew 5:21-26 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny."

Jesus places Anger and Murder in the same Category.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment (human court).' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment (God's court). And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' (worthless, idiot) shall be in danger of the council (local council). But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire (Gehenna, hell, is the place where the fire will never be quenched. The Last Judgment)." (Comments and emphasis added.)

- Angry words and name calling reveals that a person's heart is far from God.
- Anger leads to whole ranges of emotions and actions.
- Anger tends to be a gushing spring that quickly floods its surroundings.
- Anger can destroy its host as well as anything or anyone against which it is directed.

1 John 3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

Dealing with the Anger of a Fellow Believer

Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

- Jews brought gifts (referring to animal sacrifices) that they offered at the altar in the temple of Jerusalem.
- This verse focuses on the anger someone else feels toward the worshiper.
- Love for God and for others is more important than gifts brought to the altar.

Dealing with an Adversary

Matthew 5:25-26 “Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.”

- Practical advice to resolve our differences with our enemies before their anger causes more trouble.
- Small conflicts mend more easily if you try to make peace right away.
- These verses advise us to get things right with others before we have to stand before God.