

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 5

Women of Grace|GraceLife Church

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. 23 Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. 25 Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent. –Matthew 5:21-26

Day 1—Verse 21-22

*You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
--Matthew 5:21-22*

1. What does the Old Testament say about murder? What was to be the punishment for murder? (see Exodus 20:13; 21:12; Numbers 35:30-31; Lev. 24:17)
2. Who was the first murderer and what was God’s warning to him?

3. What is murder? How is it different than manslaughter?
4. Why is murder such a serious sin? (Gen. 9:6)
5. Is it ever just to kill someone? Why or why not?
6. Jesus uses the word “but” in verse 22; what is He doing with this contrast?
7. How are anger and murder connected?
 - a. Is murder merely an outward act? How does Jesus turn this on its head? What would he have been confronting in the scribes and Pharisees?

Heart Check:

- You might be thinking, “I’ve never murdered anyone!” Ah! But what does Jesus say about anger? Are you prone to anger?
- Do you view anger as a serious sin or do you tend to disregard or justify it?

Day 2—Verse 21-22

*You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
--Matthew 5:21-22*

1. What are some of the synonyms that we use for anger to make it sound less sinful?
2. Some translations read “everyone who is angry with his brother without cause...” What does it mean to be angry without cause?
3. What three expressions of anger without cause does Jesus give here? How do they differ from each other?

4. The word rendered here as “fool” is actually “Raca” and does not have a precise English translation, but it is a word that expresses contempt and disdain for the other person’s mind or intellect. How is having contempt for another person a form of anger?

5. What are some of the effects our words of contempt can have on another person?

6. What do these passages teach us about anger and why we need to put it off?
 - a. Psalm 37:8

 - b. Proverbs 14:29

 - c. Prov. 15:1

 - d. Prov. 19:11

 - e. Prov. 22:24

f. James 1:19-20

7. Is there such a thing as righteous anger? What is the difference between the anger that Jesus is talking about here and righteous anger?

Day 3—Verse 23-24

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
--Matthew 5:23-24

1. “Therefore” points back to what Jesus has already taught. What is he referring to?

2. We no longer offer sacrifices, so when might be an appropriate time for us to apply this verse?

3. According to this verse, who are we to go and be reconciled to?

4. What would it look like to obey this command today?

5. What is reconciliation?

6. Why does Christ command us to leave a time of worship and go and be reconciled to our brothers and sisters in Christ? Why is that more important than remaining at worship and reconciling later?

7. What is the danger of worshipping Christ while harboring sin (specifically anger) in your heart toward someone?

Heart check:

- Is there anyone in your life that you have something against, or that you know has something against you? What do you need to do to make things right between you?

Day 4—Verse 25-26

Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent. -- Matthew 5:25-26

1. How does this verse tie back to vs. 23-24?
2. How does Romans 12:18-20 apply to this passage?
3. In Roman law the plaintiff and the defendant had the opportunity to resolve things between themselves up until the point that they faced the judge together. Why do you think Jesus used this example to demonstrate his point?

4. Why is it so important that we reconcile with others quickly?

5. Jesus uses a common practice in His day: a debtor's prison. What is a debtor's prison and what is Jesus communicating in this illustration?
 - a. Does this help you to see how serious a lack of reconciliation is?

6. How does Proverbs 25:8-10 help us understand this verse better?

7. Sometimes we can love those in Christ but feel justified in being angry with our opponent/enemy. How are we to treat our enemies?

Heart check:

- Is there anyone in your life that you need to be reconciled to? Do not delay! Do it as soon as you can.

Day 5 – The Heart of the Matter – A lesson in Anger

1. What is the result of unchecked anger in your heart towards someone? See Hebrews 12:15.
2. How is your on-line speech? Are you prone to be angry? To call others fools? What should your on-line speech look like?
3. Is there any person or group of people that you deem as worthless? Or at least of less worth than others? Do you recognize that for the sin that it is?
4. Is there anywhere you justify being angry by calling it frustration, irritability, or impatience?

5. Is there anywhere you excuse anger because of your circumstances (disobedient children, someone sins against you, hormones, lack of sleep, etc.)?
6. Do you look down on others who sin in the form of adultery, murder, fornication, homosexuality, drunkenness, theft, etc., yet dismiss your sin of discontentment, lust, anger, irritability, frustration, impatience, covetousness, or strife? How is this the exact sin Jesus was addressing in these verses? How must your view of sin change?
7. In what situations are you prone to anger? What must you do with your anger and put on in its place?
8. If you are married or have children, is there anger in your heart toward them? Do you have a list or record of wrongs against them (or anyone in your life)? Is there any sin they have committed against you and asked for forgiveness, but you continually bring it up in your mind and to them? How is this a sin and a violation of what you promised to do in forgiving them (releasing them of the offence)?

Dig Deeper:

1. If you struggle with anger and bitterness, memorize verses to help you to put off anger (such as 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a and Ephesians 4:31-5:2).
2. Do a word study on Anger.
3. <https://www.chapellibrary.org/read/htbf>
4. Sinful anger reveals a lack of love. Listen to Pastor James' sermon series on Love from 1 Corinthians 13: https://gracelife.ca/sermon_book/1-corinthians/
5. Book recommendation: *The Law of Kindness* by Mary Beeke