

# WHOSOEVER IS ANGRY

## MATTHEW 5:21-26

Text: Matthew 5:21-26

### **Matthew 5:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: <sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. <sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. <sup>25</sup> Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. <sup>26</sup> Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

### Introduction:

There are many today who have an attitude that if it's not in black and white that there is nothing wrong with whatever it is that they want to do, however the Lord's words deal more with the intent more than the content.

### Notice:

He begins here by dealing with murder, anger, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

Though we may not be a murderer, these things – anger, failing to be reconciled, or refusing to forgive can lead to murder.

Note:

## **1. THE MESSAGE OF THE COMMANDMENT (VS. 21-22)**

### **Matthew 5:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: <sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

#### **A. The Problem – Anger**

We see the birth of anger back in Genesis 4.

Sin is born in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve decided to disobey and reject God.

God's good creation was intact for just two chapters.

In chapter 4 we see anger born

What started out as rebellion in chapter three has now grown to hatred, anger and murder in chapter 4.

Note some contrast between chapter 3 and chapter 4.

- Eve had to be talked into doing wrong whereas Cain needed no persuasion
- Eve was deceived in thinking that she could become as God whereas Cain had already assumed that position.
- Eve was visited by Satan to talk her in to sin, but now even a visit and conversation by the Lord can talk Cain out of his sin. (Genesis 4:6-7)

Adam and Eve trembled with fear and hid after their sin, but there's no hiding in the trees for Cain for he has no fear or remorse.

Confronted by God Adam and Eve acknowledge their sin, but when Cain is confronted he brushes off God.

Adam and Eve didn't question the judgment which God handed out to them, but Cain grumbles that God's judgment is unfair.

## B. The Potential

- It's divisive
- It's destructive

Note – James 1:19-20

### **James 1:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: <sup>20</sup> For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

We are called here to be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath. Many of us get angry before we get the facts. We hear something and fly off the handle.

## **2. THE MEANING OF THE COMMANDMENT (VS. 23-26)**

### **Matthew 5:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. <sup>25</sup> Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. <sup>26</sup> Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

The truth is anger; contempt and slander hinder the Christian.

A. Worship is hindered (vs. 23-24)

The Lord illustrates this with this:

Illustration:

A person comes to perform his religious duty but who has offended his brother. The Lord says that it is more important to be reconciled to the brother than to discharge our religious duty... because the religious duty becomes a sham if the worshiper has misbehaved so poorly that his brother has something against him.

Someone once said: “Men love to substitute ceremony for integrity, purity, and love; but the Lord will have none of it.”

B. Influence is hindered (vs. 25-26)

The Lord illustrates this with this:

Illustration:

In Jesus' day as in other times, a person who defaulted on his debts could be thrown into a debtor's prison until the amount owed was paid. Of course, while in prison the person could not earn any money and it

would be nearly impossible to pay off the debt and as a result his release from prison.

Jesus is stressing urgency of personal reconciliation.  
Close:

Though we may have never murdered anyone, many of us have experienced the danger of anger.

Maybe you are experiencing right now. Don't nurture it and give the enemy a foothold in your life. Jesus message is simply, "Judgment is coming." Don't delay settle it now.

Settle it with God – Confess it and ask His forgiveness.

Settle it with others – be reconciled for worship knowing that our brother has ought against us is a sham.

The Lord said you have heard that thou shalt not kill, but I say those who are angry without cause is guilty and will face judgment.