

Sermon on the Mount Part 8  
Jesus' thoughts on Murder/Anger  
Matthew 5:21-26

**I. You have heard it said (verse 21)**

- Last week we ended our message by speaking about the fact that Jesus said that our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees.
- Now Jesus is going to directly reference their teachings in the remainder of the Sermon on the Mount. He will repeatedly say this phrase "You have heard it said"
  - At that time the majority of folks did not have the written word as we do today.
  - The majority of women in that day were illiterate.
  - So the majority of their teachings and understanding of God's law hinged upon the teachings of the Pharisee and Scribes.
- What had the people heard?
  - The people were being taught that they should not commit murder. This is found in both the OT and the NT.
  - The Pharisees and the Scribes rightly taught that it was a sin to "physically" kill another person.

**II. But I say unto you (verse 22)**

- This is a key moment in time in my humble opinion!
  - Literally in this moment Jesus is once again demonstrating that He is God.
  - We know that ultimately Jesus would say in John 14:6 "I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life and no one comes to the Father except by Him."
- Jesus continually makes this about relationship and heart matters
  - The letter of the law simply said "Thou shalt not kill"
  - There were actually practices that were short of murder that they allowed.

**III. Jesus deals with matters of the heart (verse 22)**

- One key issue to deal with in verse 22 is the phrase "his brother without a cause"
  - Notice Jesus says we are not to be angry against our brother "without a cause"
  - This shows us and helps us understand then that there is an anger that can be had over certain issues.
  - Ephesians 4:26 "Be you angry and sin not, do not let the sun go down on your anger."
  - Romans 12:18 "If it be possible as much as lies within you, live peaceably with all men"

**IV. Reconciliation comes before worship (Verse 23-24)**

- In the next few moments we are going to discuss 4 reason why reconciliation is more important than worship
  - Reason 1 Reconciliation to God is one of the great purposes of worship.
  - Reason 2 Worship is not acceptable to God unless a person has been reconciled to his brothers.
    - Matthew 6:12, Mark 11:26, and I John 4:20
  - Reason 3 Anger between believers hinders worship
  - Reason 4 Worship is a great way and time to literally ask God to create a clean heart in your (Psalm 139:14)
- How deceitful the heart really can be (Jeremiah 17:9)
  - Some folks try to worship while there is hard feeling or anger between themselves and another individual. Matthew 5:23-24
  - Some persons try to pray while there is wrath in their heart. I Timothy 2:8 and Isaiah 1:15
  - Some folks say I love God while they hate their brother. I John 4:20-21
- The application is clear. Get to forgiveness and reconciliation and then get on to worshipping.

**V. Deal with your anger quickly (verse 25)**

- .In this verse we are encouraged to deal with our anger in a timely fashion
- In verse 25b Jesus begins to speak about the court system.
  - The idea is that we be reconciled to our brother if possible so that ultimately the situation does not end up in a court and if we are found to be wrong end up in prison.
  - Such actions are tragic and harmful. Especially amongst God's people. See I Corinthians 6:1-8 for further study.

**VI. The terrible end of anger (verse 26)**

- Christ made two distinct comments about the end of anger
  - Judgment is sure and payment will be made. (The uttermost farthing)
  - There will be no escape. (Thou shalt by no means come out)

