

Anger and Its Answer

Matthew 5.21-26

Overview

- **Murder:**
 - Jesus affirms the authority of the 1T/OT (vss. 17-20) and He does the same with the teaching against murder here in vs. 21 (Exodus 20.13, Deut. 5.17) as well as the necessity of a council for those who have wronged the Law (Deut. 16.18-20)

- **Anger:**
 - Jesus is not adding any teaching, He is helping His disciples see deeper into the teaching that is already there:
 - He is denouncing not only murder, but all the things that lead to murder
- Murder is the fruit of anger
- You do not have hate/murder without anger:

- **Judgment/Hell**
 - The Pharisees Scribes had only been judging the external acts of murder, not the inward attitudes of anger:
 - Jesus affirms the Sovereignty of God of all things, not just external acts
 - The Pharisees and Scribes had only been pointing people to earthly councils and not pointing them to the eternal judgment of God for sin:
 - Jesus was showing the deeper, more comprehensiveness of judgment
 - If Murder/Anger is not checked, this is the destiny of those that give into murder

- **Pursue Peace with Pace:**
 - “If you are offering your gift at the altar” is language of a religious sacrifice:
 - Jesus is commanding you leave it in order to pursue peace (that’s how important it is)
 - He also says in vs. 25 to “come to terms QUICKLY”
 - Jesus desires reconciliation more than sacrifice (“to obey is better than to sacrifice”)
 - He says His disciples are peacemakers (5.9)
 - That’s what God has done for us in Christ:
 - Though angry, He pursued peace with us in Christ

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Do you see the cry for justice in our world? Where do you think this comes from? How does the cry for justice play into the Gospel?*

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26. Why would murder be wrong to God?
2. How does Jesus connect murder to anger from the command? Why does He do it?
3. What is the motivation of our sinful anger? Is there ever a time for righteous anger (cf. Eph. 4:26)? How can you tell the difference?
4. What does Jesus say happens to those that are given to anger? (Read Galatians 5.19-21)
5. Why does Jesus desire peace so much and so quickly?
6. Is it easier for you to “offer a sacrifice” than to leave it and go and make peace? If so, why?

7. Why is it so difficult for us to pursue peace with others (especially those that have things against us)?
8. How does the Bible describe God's anger? Where can we get encouragement towards faithfulness in peacemaking?
9. Describe how we learn how to deal with our anger and pursue peace in the Gospel.

Accountability Question: *Who or what has the Lord spoken to you about making peace?*

Or

Describe the areas of struggle with your anger. Spend time in prayer