



Week 2 - Serial Killers

Series Passage: Matthew 5:13-48

Focus for the Week: Matthew 5:21-26, Leviticus 19:16-18

Discussion Guide:

There are many frustrations that we experience in life. From flight cancellations to aggravating family members and everything in between. It often seems that anger can easily slip into our lives.

Q: What ordinary occurrence frustrates and angers you?

On the New Mountain, Jesus' call for us to adhere to a higher moral standard begins by looking at the sixth commandment, "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13)

Read: Matthew 5:21-26

Q: What is your initial reaction to hearing this teaching from Jesus?

Q: What stood out to you from this passage?

While this passage comes from the New Mountain, it is important to know that Jesus is not trying to remove the old laws - this is not a spring cleaning. Jesus is calling us to remember what is at the heart of the OT law. In fact, this passage calls back to a section of the Levitical Laws.

Read: Leviticus 19:16-18

Q: In what ways does this section relate to our first scripture passage?

Q: What does it mean to love our neighbour as ourselves?

Finishing Well

Jesus, in this passage, is reminding us that we can't be the people that God is calling us to be by following the law to the letter. Instead, Jesus is setting a higher standard for us because he is telling us that it is our hearts that matter. That we are to have hearts that love our brothers, sisters, and neighbours as ourselves.

This is a difficult calling, and it will make us uncomfortable. It is easier to get angry than it is to reconcile with those who have hurt us, or who we have hurt, with anger or words. However, we have a strong foundation to step out into this uncomfortably.

When Jesus went to the cross, died, and conquered death, he provided us with a way to be reconciled to God. We have hope and peace in that knowledge. Jesus, through this greatest act of love, showed the lengths He was willing to go to for reconciliation and what it truly means to love our neighbours, brothers, sisters, family, friends, and strangers as ourselves.

Be encouraged by these words of Paul in Romans 5.

Read: Romans 5: 6-8

Close in Prayer