



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 3: MATTHEW 5:21-26

Community Group Study Guide - Week of February 7, 2021

We live in a culture where anger is so common and so normal, it's accepted as normative. Politicians are angry at each other. People are angry at politicians. Social media provides people with platforms to attack not just the arguments of their opponents, but their very humanity. People make careers out of character assassination. It's how things are, so obviously it's the way things should be. Right?

In [Matthew 5:21-26](#), Jesus commands us to check out hearts for unrighteous anger. Jesus says "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."

Jesus makes anger toward and hatred of another human being tantamount to murder. Anger is incipient murder. In this sense, we're all murderers. We've all killed others in our hearts. We've all wished a person or people didn't exist. In this sense, we all get away with murder. But there will be judgment in hell. Or there has been judgment on the cross. It all depends on if you repent of the sin of anger and hatred and turn to Jesus Christ. Then once you do, Jesus empowers you, by the power of the Holy Spirit to love even your enemies and pray for them.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that Christ calls Christians to a truer and deeper form of obedience to God's law.

Heart

To be driven to positive and negative obedience of God's moral law, and pursue reconciliation in the church by reflecting on God's love toward us.

Hands

To be salt and light in the world. To do good works with thankfulness in our hearts. To be purveyors of grace and peace in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Membership Meeting** will be held at the Temple at **3PM on February 21.**

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to sign up to serve on the Mini Mo or Usher Team.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Setting the Context for Matthew 5:21-48

1. How do people in our society form their value systems?
2. Why does righteousness matter to you?
3. In Matthew 5:21-48 (v. 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43), Jesus makes six statements with the phrase, "You have heard that it was said..." What is the connection between these verses and his statement in Matthew 5:20?

Law and Love

4. **Read Matthew 5:21.** How is the quotation in this verse a distortion of the 6th commandment (Exodus 20:13)?
5. When obedience of the law is made easier by limiting its scope to only outward behavior, how does that impact the role of Christ in a believer's life? What are some consequences that you have faced while applying such thinking in your own life?
6. **Read Matthew 5:22.** Based on Jesus' response to the statement in v21, how should obedience of a Christian go beyond action?
7. What does it mean that there are positive and negative sides to God's law?
8. What comfort does a Christian have when he or she realizes the impossibility of living up to the standard of righteousness set by Christ? How does clinging to this source of comfort impact the way a Christian responds to somebody who wrongs them?

Anger and Reconciliation

9. What connection does Christ make between harboring anger and aiming insults at one's brother, and murder in verse 22?
10. **Read verses 23-25.** Why is it important for Christians to pursue reconciliation when they have conflict? When there is conflict between two parties, who is responsible for initiating the process of reconciliation?