

## **Anger and Lust**

April 6-7, 2024

### **I. Intro to the Series – The Golden Rule**

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (*Matt 7:12*)

### **II. Jesus here to fulfill the Law**

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (*Matt 5:17*)

Do we have a shot at righteousness?

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (*Matt 5:20*)

Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. (*Rom 10:4*)

. . . not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. (*Phil 3:9*)

### **III. Anger**

A. OT Command: “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ (*Matt 5:21*)

B. Jesus: But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. (*Matt 5:22*)

C. Jesus’ how-to:

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the

altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. (*Matt 5:23-24*)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (*Matt 22:36-40*)

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. (*Matt 5:25-26*)

D. Other how-to thoughts:

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (*Eph 4:26-31*)

Forgive: Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger . . . Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (*Eph 4:31-32*)

Humility: “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (*Matt 7:3*)

Jesus’ example: For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God . . . To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps (*1 Peter 2:19-21*)

Trust God: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (*Prov 3:5-6*)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (*Rom 8:28*)

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (*Rom 12:19*)

#### **IV. Lust**

A. OT Command: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' (*Matt 5:27*)

B. Jesus: But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (*Matt 5:28*)

C. Jesus' how-to (take drastic action):

If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. (*Matt 5:29-30*)

D. Focus of our desires. Ourselves? Or God and Others?

. . . "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (*Matt 5:37-39*)