

Text: Matt 5:21-26

Intro:

- Context of SM thus far
- 6x antitheses – formula
 - Not cancelling out the law – but explaining the fullness of the law
 - Interpretation and tradition - Scrolls they did not have in abundance – for most people their understanding of the law came from what they had heard and had been passed down to them through their traditions
 - Martin Luther and the reformation – 95 theses Oct 31, 1517
 - Today in jeopardy once again with illiteracy and AI
 - Letter of the law and legalism

“You have heard that it was said to our ancestors,...”

- We looked last week at the importance of the Word of God for his people. I heard in a sermon this past week a statement that summarized what we discussed. “Doctrinal decline begins with a disregard for the details.”
- Brothers and Sisters, you have a gift that most of God’s people through most of history could only dream of – the word of God, his revelation of himself to us in word, available to us every moment of every day – we do not have to simply trust what others tell us about God’s Word, and when we fail to read and engage with God’s word we willingly step back in time and in some ways back to dependency on others for our faith – like a child being ready for solid food and yet remaining on the bottle waiting for others to feed us and not even able to discern if what others are feeding us is healthy for us or harmful to us.
- Forrest and the trees – the details

Righteousness that exceeds

Extends to what is beneath the surface (the spirit of the law)

- Misconceptions –
 - Not all killing – word comes to us through the KJV
 - Not all anger - Term used for anger (*orgizo*) is a very intense term
 - Used only of anger that is prelude to destructive behavior in Matt
 - 18:34 – anger of king at servant's hypocrisy
 - 22:7 – rage of king against those who murdered his servants
 - Never used to describe the anger of Jesus
 - Distinct from *thumos*
 - A rising vapor that burns up
 - Sudden boiling of the mind
 - Prelude to *orgizo*
 - Grammatical form implies enduring anger
 - Present participle is progressive in nature
 - An abiding, continuing, or habitual anger
- Interesting that Jesus begins from a point of agreement, a law with which everyone agrees and of which few have violated, at least so they think.

11.16.25: Matt 5:21-26

- But then Jesus hits them with the reality that the punishment that is deserved for festering anger against a brother or sister is that same as that which is deserved for murder.
- Jesus was revealing the truth that every one of us is closer to being a murderer than we have thought or are willing to admit.
- Extends to our words and our thoughts

Never gives up on the hope of reconciliation

- The terms *raca* and fool are not quite identical. *Raca* expresses contempt for someone's mind. It means "Stupid idiot! Dummy! Moron!"
- Fool expresses contempt for someone's heart and character. It means, "Scoundrel!"
- If *raca* insults the brains, fool insults the heart. Together, they imply that someone is worthless, good for nothing.
- At a literal level, we should avoid contemptuous words, but we should shun every whiff of condescension. We should treat no one, whether young or old, whether weak in mind or weak in body, as if he has no value.

Aggressively pursues reconciliation

- Vs 23-26
- 2x illustrations
- Note the priority
- Note the sense of urgency
- Note the initiative
- Note the extremes / lengths

Do not in any way give this seed water and fertilizer with which to grow!!

We do not appreciate the severity of our sin and the extreme measures we are to take to make sure that it cannot grow in our hearts and minds.

Conclusion:

- Reconciliation
- Sin and need for Jesus