Sermon Title: Anger, Conflict & Peacemaking
Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26
Pastor: Cliff Carey

Slide 1:

Matthew 5:21-22

[21] "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' [22] 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.

Slide 2:

Jesus has a Higher Standard

- Anger is the root of murder
- Brother = Christ Followers
- Raca
- The Hell of Fire

Slide 3:

Context: Hell of Fire

"Gehenna" of Fire > Ge-hinnom > Valley of Hinnom > Hell
2 Kings 23:10 - King Josiah and sacrifices to Molek

Readers would understand that Jesus is referring to the literal hell.

Slide 4:

In the Midst of Conflict (vs 23-24)

God desires a pure sacrifice at the altar
Leave your gift
Look inward rather than outward
Be reconciled with each other (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Slide 5:

Dealing with Adversaries (vs 25-26)

Work to resolve it quickly
Avoid the courts
We're called to be peacemakers with both Christians and non-Christians alike.

Slide 6:

Becoming a Peacemaker (the ministry & message of reconciliation)

1. Peacekeepers avoid conflict at all costs. Peacemakers enter into conflict with confidence.
2. Peacekeepers keep problems out of sight and out of mind. Peacemakers accept responsibility for wrongs and resolution.
3. Peacekeepers pursue artificial peace and allow wrongs to worsen. Peacemakers honor their Creator by pursuing what's right.

(If we can, set it up in two columns)

Peacekeepers…	Peacemakers…
avoid conflict at all costs	enter into conflict with confidence
keep problems out of sight & mind	accept responsibility for wrongs & resolution
pursue artificial peace & allow wrongs to worsen	honor their creator by pursuing what's right