

“Pure Reconciliation”. Matthew 5:21-26.

Series: “What Did Jesus Teach? The Sermon on the Mount” Part 6.
March 7, 2021 Rev. Dr. Scott Arnold. First Baptist Los Angeles, CA

Key Thought: Pure discipleship respects life and relationships as sacred. Jesus taught that fear, hatred, and unresolved anger is at the root of violence, brokenness, and corruption in the world. Jesus lifts a higher standard than the Pharisees for fulfilling God’s righteousness within relationships.

I. Jesus Supports the Law, Addresses the Root Issues (21-22a)

- A. The outward action of anger brings judgment. (21)
- B. The inward attitude of hatred and anger is sinful. (22a)

II. Jesus Addresses the Danger of People Judging Others (22b-22c)

- A. Warning to not call people derogatory names (22b)
(answerable to the court)
- B. Warning to not degrade or put people down (22c)
(answerable to God)

III. Seek righteous and pure reconciliation (23-24)

- A. Listen to your God-given conscience (23)
- B. Follow through with actions of forgiveness and healing (24)

IV. Disciples are to be contrite and seek peace (25-26)

- A. Find common ground for resolution (25)
- B. Unresolved conflict becomes costly (26)

Application Point: The Call of God our Heavenly Father is to believe in Jesus Christ and follow His lead in respecting the sanctity of all life by living in peace and respect of others. Beyond the law of “Thou Shalt Not Kill” is the deeper principle of consideration and love of people that overcomes false assumptions, resolution of conflict and an avoidance of judgmentalism.

21 “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.’ 22 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. 23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 “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. 26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. (Matthew 5:21-26 NIV).

Questions:

1. What pattern of blaming and criticism do we see displayed in the popular culture and media of our time?
2. Why, according to Jesus, is it important that we not be too quick to judge? What are the dangers? (v. 22)
3. Jesus taught that our offering to God becomes tainted and pretentious if we have a serious unresolved conflict with someone else. What steps does our Lord give us toward at least working toward reconciliation? (v.23) Why is this important?
4. Why is it important to settle matters quickly with others? Share examples.
5. If disciples of Jesus were to take our Lord’s teaching seriously, how would this bring positive change and be a better witness?