



# **SERMON** ON THE **MOUNT**

**"Murder, Malice,  
and Making Peace"  
Matthew 5:21-26**

**<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever murders shall be guilty before the court.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ shall be guilty before the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. <sup>23</sup>Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,**

**Matthew 5:21-26**

**<sup>24</sup>leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. <sup>25</sup>Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last quadrans.**

**Matthew 5:21-26**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

**Jesus takes the Sixth Commandment "You shall not murder" and exposes that the sin of murder begins not with a physical act, but with a heart posture.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **The Problem with Shallow Righteousness (v. 21): The Pharisees reduced the Law to mere external behavior. Jesus corrects this.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **The Problem with Shallow Righteousness (v. 21): The Pharisees reduced the Law to mere external behavior. Jesus corrects this.**

- **It is not enough to simply avoid physical murder. We must examine whether we harbor the seeds of murder: anger, resentment, coldness, or passive hatred.**



## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **The Warning Against Internal Anger (v. 22): Jesus, speaking as the divine Lawgiver, shows that the Law is spiritual, reaching motives and affections.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **The Warning Against Internal Anger (v. 22): Jesus, speaking as the divine Lawgiver, shows that the Law is spiritual, reaching motives and affections.**
- **Sinful Anger is Murder in Seed Form: Unresolved anger is not a small thing; it is a spiritual emergency that poisons relationships.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **Contemptuous Speech is a Violation: Insults like "Raca" or "You fool" reveal a corrupt heart because the tongue reveals the heart.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **Contemptuous Speech is a Violation: Insults like "Raca" or "You fool" reveal a corrupt heart because the tongue reveals the heart.**

- **The Consequence is Eschatological: Jesus links internal anger and contempt to eschatological judgment (the "fiery hell"), not just earthly consequences.**

## **I. The Root of Murder: Anger in the Heart (vv. 21–22)**

- **Application: We must identify and repent of sinful anger quickly. Confess the silent grudges and murderous thoughts that never show on your face.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

**True worship requires a pure heart. Jesus teaches that communion with God cannot be claimed while knowingly refusing reconciliation with others.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

**True worship requires a pure heart. Jesus teaches that communion with God cannot be claimed while knowingly refusing reconciliation with others.**

- **Reconciliation Before Worship (v. 23): If you are presenting your offering (worship) and you remember that your brother has something against you:**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Worship cannot be separated from obedience to the moral law.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Worship cannot be separated from obedience to the moral law.**
- **The burden is on the offender to pursue peace.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Worship cannot be separated from obedience to the moral law.**
- **The burden is on the offender to pursue peace.**
- **Application: Refuse to separate personal holiness from public worship. Let conviction interrupt your routine.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Prioritize Reconciliation (v. 24): We must leave our offering, first be reconciled, and then come and present our offering.**



## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Prioritize Reconciliation (v. 24): We must leave our offering, first be reconciled, and then come and present our offering.**
- **Reconciliation must be prioritized, not postponed.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Prioritize Reconciliation (v. 24): We must leave our offering, first be reconciled, and then come and present our offering.**
- **Reconciliation must be prioritized, not postponed.**
- **Take the first step, even if the other person may be partly wrong.**

## **II. The Requirement of Reconciliation: Making Things Right (vv. 23–24)**

- **Seek genuine restoration and relational repair, not just quick, superficial peace. Be willing to pay the relational cost (humility, time, vulnerability).**

## **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

**Jesus uses legal imagery to stress the urgency of repentance and reconciliation.**

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

**Jesus uses legal imagery to stress the urgency of repentance and reconciliation.**

- **Urgency of Repentance (v. 25): The journey "on the way to court" symbolizes the believer's journey toward the final judgment.**

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- **Delay increases guilt and hardens the heart.**

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- Delay increases guilt and hardens the heart.
- The "judge... guard... prison" sequence is a warning of God's righteous judgment.

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- Delay increases guilt and hardens the heart.
- The "judge... guard... prison" sequence is a warning of God's righteous judgment.
- Application: Treat unresolved conflict as an urgent spiritual danger. Do not wait for the "right moment"—go now.

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- **The High Cost of Sin (v. 26): The inability to pay the "last quadrans" symbolizes the impossibility of escaping divine justice without repentance.**

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- **Sin's debt and the certainty of judgment require Christ's atoning payment.**

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- Sin's debt and the certainty of judgment require Christ's atoning payment.
- Unresolved sin charges the full price: bitterness, broken fellowship, and a hardened conscience.

### **III. The Risk of Refusal: Judgment for Unresolved Sin (vv. 25–26)**

- Sin's debt and the certainty of judgment require Christ's atoning payment.
- Unresolved sin charges the full price: bitterness, broken fellowship, and a hardened conscience.
- Application: Let this warning drive you to the gospel. Confess, repent, and rest in Christ's righteousness. Cultivate a lifestyle of quick repentance and eager reconciliation.



## **Conclusion**

**God is not merely concerned with what we do;  
He is concerned with who we are. Jesus  
exposes our hidden anger and contempt not  
to crush us, but to heal us.**

## **Conclusion**

**God is not merely concerned with what we do;  
He is concerned with who we are. Jesus  
exposes our hidden anger and contempt not  
to crush us, but to heal us.**

- **The grace of Christ is sufficient to  
forgive the sin of murder in the heart and to  
replace it with peace, gentleness, and  
reconciliation.**

## **Conclusion**

- **Go today: Do not delay, do not wait, and do not harden your heart. Reconciliation is the fruit of His kingdom living in us.**

## **Conclusion**

- **Go today: Do not delay, do not wait, and do not harden your heart. Reconciliation is the fruit of His kingdom living in us.**
- **Our hope is in Christ's perfect obedience. He reconciled us to God by paying every penny on the cross.**

## **Conclusion**

- **Go today: Do not delay, do not wait, and do not harden your heart. Reconciliation is the fruit of His kingdom living in us.**
- **Our hope is in Christ's perfect obedience. He reconciled us to God by paying every penny on the cross.**
- **Those whom Christ has reconciled must become reconcilers for Christ.**

**The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.**