

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 5:21-22 | Forgiven From Anger
October 9, 2022

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 5.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last Sunday, we did something a little different.

We've been studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and we usually take a short section of His sermon and study it verse by verse—

So that we can apply it to our lives and share it with others throughout the rest of the week.

But, as I was studying this passage, I noticed that Jesus does something staggering for the rest of this chapter.

And what's staggering is the scrutiny of God.

The probing, the inquiring and the investigation of how we are to keep His laws perfectly

What's shocking is God's unhurried and deliberate examination of our lives morally.

What's incomprehensible to us—what's laughable at times—are indeed the moral standards set forth in His commands.

Jesus addresses six specific issues in our upcoming text:

1. Murder
2. Adultery
3. Divorce
4. Truth
5. Making Promises
6. Loving Enemies

There is a real danger in reading God's Word haphazardly.

If we skim through the rest of Matthew chapter five, we may actually think or even try to uphold these standards that Jesus places before us.

Dear friends, please know that God's laws were never created for us to keep—they were created to reveal our sinfulness and depravity.

God's law reveal a standard of life that no one can't keep.

And today's text is going to prove that beyond the shadow of a doubt.

These six issues that Jesus discusses are symptoms of a much larger problem.

And if we don't address the real problem, we'll never get to the real solution.

The problem we all have deals with sin.

LW KEYPOINT# 1

Sin is to ignore and defy God's law.

You may have heard sin defined as: "missing the mark of perfection."

Sin is a total disregard for who God is.

We learned the history of sin in Genesis chapter 3.

We studied how original sin impacts us today.

We also looked at our own personal sin.

And I wanted to take the time last week to touch on the doctrine of sin because if we don't understand the sinfulness of sin—we'll roll our eyes at what Jesus teaches today.

“What an old fashioned prude!”

And the reason we roll our eyes is that Jesus preaches a moral standard that is impossible for any man or woman to attain.

“How do you get into Heaven?”

Perfection. You must be born perfect and never even think about committing sin.

Other wise you're going to need a Savior who has come from Heaven. *to get you there*

So it's imperative to see today's text through the eyes of God.

It's vital for us to see the standard of a holy God compared to the watered-down morality of a sinful man.

INTRODUCTION:

Today's topic is a heavy one—murder.

Jesus is going to teach straight from the Ten Commandments.

This Scripture passage is one of the most important texts regarding the sanctity of human life.

How so? Let's find out.

**Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:21-26 CSB

Matthew 5:21— “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.

Matthew 5:22— But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.,

Matthew 5:23— So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

Matthew 5:24— leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:25— Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you’re on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.

Matthew 5:26— Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

***This is the Word of the Lord for River Bible Church.*

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 5:21— “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.

“You have heard that it was said.”

In using this phrase, Jesus was referencing the *halakha*.

The *halakha* means “the walk” and is referring to the oral traditions of the Rabbis.

These oral traditions come from the false belief that God revealed the Torah in both oral and written forms.

Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The Pharisees called this oral and written form the “dual Torah.”

Every Jew would have understood the formula that Jesus uses.

So what Jesus is doing is using this same formula to correct the Pharisee's false teachings regarding murder.

“You have heard that it was said.... But I say to you ...”

In 5:21–48, Jesus teaches the true meaning of God’s Law. — Jesus is correcting the scribes & Pharisees superficial interpretation.

We had an overview last Sunday, but today Jesus gets painfully specific.

Matthew 5:21— *“You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder,*

Before we dive into the specifics, I’d like to provide some history of this thing called murder.

God prohibits murder in the sixth commandment.

Exodus 20:13— *Do not murder.*

That’s pretty simple. Three words—and some people say memorizing scripture is hard.

As a side-note, Exodus 20 has nothing to do with self-defense or going to war to protect your country.

God is referring to pre-meditated murder.

And under OT law, murder carried the death penalty.

Numbers 35:31— You are not to accept *a ransom* for the life of someone who is guilty of murder; he must be put to death.

money/bribe

But even before the Ten Commandments, God deals with murder.

Because man's first crime was homicide.

Genesis 4:8— Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:9— Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

Genesis 4:10— Then God said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"

So shortly after this first homicide, God bans murder right after the flood in Genesis 9.

Let's keep in mind that the flood was a judgment on sin.

God says to Noah...

Genesis 9:6— Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

But believe it or not, the story of Cain and Abel, along with Noah, is not the first time we learn about murder.

To learn about the first murderer, we must fast forward from Genesis to Jesus.

Jesus gives us a peak behind the spiritual curtain... because things are not necessarily in chronological order.

In John's Gospel Jesus is correcting the scribes and Pharisees false doctrine and their surface level interpretation of His Word.

John 8:44— You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning.
↳ SATAN

Murder has been a constant part of human society from the beginning of time.

As a country, we average seventy murders per day.

That's around 25,000 murders per year.

And those are the ones we know about.

Now keep in mind these numbers don't take into account suicides or abortions.

Unfortunately, we have been so desensitized to murder, with murders becoming so common that, unless the murder itself is really bizarre, involves multiple people, or includes a famous person, they no longer make the local news.

Matthew 5:21— "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment."

Judgment is krisis (crease-sees) in Greek.

The way the scribes and Pharisees taught this command on murder is that of a legal decision by a local court.
↳ the consequence of

In other words, the scribes and Pharisees were not worried about God with His judgment but rather their reputation with people when convicted of murder.

They were only worried about the here & now.

So let's put this verse back together....

Matthew 5:21— "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.

Everybody is shaking their heads in agreement, saying, "Amen! Preach it Rabbi! Stick it to those no-good murderers!"

...and then Jesus says this...

Matthew 5:22— But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.

Oh, that's probably going to cause a church split.

NASB—"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court;

Can you imagine the Disciples and the crowd going silent?

The air get's sucked right off the mountain where Jesus is teaching from.

Everybody starts to get a lump in their throats that they can't swallow.

They get dry mouth...

Why? Let's take a closer look.

Matthew 5:22— But I tell you,

Wait for a second, who cares what you tell us, Jews.

Who are you?

And who are you to tell me what to do or not do?

If Jesus is simply a Rabbi, so what?

Rabbis and preachers are a dime a dozen.

I'll just start listening to another Rabbi who preaches what I like to hear.

But

If Jesus is *The Word who became flesh and now dwells with people*, His statement changes everything (John 1:14).

Why? Because Jesus is the perfect expositor and interpreter of The Law.

We learned several weeks ago how Jesus is the OT because He's on nearly every page of it!

It also means that Jesus is the Judge—because it's His Law.

He's the one who gave the Ten Commandments to Moses in the first place.

+

Matthew 5:22— *But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.*

If you have a KJV or an NKJV, you'll notice the phrase "*without cause.*"

That's an unfortunate translation that is not in most Greek manuscripts.

If we think about it, there is always a cause for our anger. Justified or unjustified.

Anger is *Orgizō* (Or-E-zo) in Greek.

Orgizō is an anger that broods and simmers—on the verge of boiling.

This is the kind of anger that we can't let go of.

It's like holding a grudge.

This is the kind of bitter anger where we refuse to forgive.

It is the type of anger that doesn't want reconciliation. (Heb. 12:15).

Why? Because we want that person to pay for what they did.

So we know what anger is—now let's see the fruits of it.

We've All Been Angry - We're All guilty of this sin

Matthew 5:22— *But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment.*

Most English translations say “will be” or “shall be” guilty.

No translation says “may be” or “could be” guilty.

In other words, there will be a determination and conviction on your anger.

The apostle John clears up any confusion we may have.

John 3:15— *Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.*

Why are we still guilty if we didn't physically do anything wrong?

Because the first step in murder is anger—all we need now is the opportunity.

*one is a physical crime
the other is a spiritual crime*

Now, there is obviously a difference between murder and anger, but both are sin.

KEYPOINT #1:
The law against murder also prohibits potential murder.

In other words, what is prohibited by law is not only the actual killing of a human being, but the thoughts of anger and hate beforehand..

Back to verse...

Matthew 5:22— *Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire.*

So now Jesus gives us some real-world application.

Matthew 5:22— *Whoever insults his brother or sister,*

Insults is *rhaka* (ra-KAH) in Greek.

The NIV and NKJV translate it as “Raca.”

Raca is a quasi-swear word in Aramaic.

Rhaka
It's tough to translate it into English.

The expression probably meant something like *stupid*.

It's also been translated as idiot, worthless, empty head, and blockhead.

All that to say that it's not a kind word.

And that's why Jesus uses it as an example.

It's a word of arrogance, disgust, and deprecation.

Let's continue...

Matthew 5:22— *Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire.*

Fool in Greek is *Mōros*.

We get our English word moron from it.

Mōros expresses contempt for someone's character.

If the word *stupid* (*rhaka*) insults the brains, then *fool* (*mōros*) insults the heart.

Combined they imply that a person is worthless.

A person, by the way, who was made in the image of God.

This is a major point in this passage we may miss.

Who are we to insult another person made in the image of God?

To call someone, a fool was to accuse them of being both stupid and godless.

So we see Jesus using a progression of severity.

Now, let's pause and feel the weight of this.

Matthew 5:22— *Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire.*

How many times have you called someone stupid?

How many times have you thought it?

How many times have you even thought about it?

When is the last time you yelled at the television?

Or gave another driver a certain hand signal...on the way to church?

And if you want to know what fools do and how they act, turn to the wisdom book of Proverbs.

Proverbs talks about fools and being foolish 61 times.

Proverbs 1:7—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs also teaches about how fools and anger are connected.

Proverbs 14:16—A wise person is cautious and turns from evil, but a fool is easily angered and is careless.

Proverbs 29:11—A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise person holds it in check.
So the question becomes, who's the real fool? → the person ^{is} Are calling foolish or me because I lack the self control for my own anger.

Matthew 5:22—Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire. → guilty

In other words, the consequence of calling people names—is death.

The Lord is not just thinking of physical death but eternal death.

Not just hell, but a fiery hell.

And we think...

"Whoah! Calling someone a name is not a big deal at all. It certainly can't send someone to hell!"

Says you...but not Jesus.

Moral perfection is how Adam and Eve were created—and just because sin entered the picture doesn't mean that God's standard has changed.

God didn't lower the bar for us to hop over it.

God doesn't wink at sin.

In a human court, the only thing that a criminal can be punished for are his lawless behaviors.

Because the judge and jury can't see his heart.

But in God's court, God see's everything.

God sees the heart, motives and agenda's.

God not only sees the murderous act but the angry thought.

KEYPOINT #2:

Anger is sinful even if it never leads to action.

PREACH

The command "Do not murder" seems so simple.

"I'm not perfect, but I've never murdered anybody."

As if not physically murdering someone is the standard for Heaven.
Even murderers compare themselves to other murderers.

Jesus says, "***But I say unto you...***"

Do you see what I mean about the scrutiny of God?

We're all guilty.

Every single one of us harbors anger at some level.

None of us love our neighbor as we should.

All of us are guilty before a holy God because of the anger in our hearts.
We're all on the same playing field.

We know this to be true because of what we say about others.

James 3:9— *With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness.*

Did you know that politicians were also made in the likeness of God?

James 3:10— *Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.*
Today's text proves that no one has ever or will ever arrive spiritually.

There is always sin to confess.

But there is good news.

I had to give you the bad before the good.

KEYPOINT #3:

Jesus is not only the lawgiver but the redeemer.

The same Jesus who gives these commands is also the same One who fulfills them on our behalf.

As sinful people were murdering Jesus and nailing Him to a Roman cross—

Jesus doesn't lash out.

Jesus doesn't get angry

✦ Instead, Jesus says... ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*** (Luke 23:34). (1 Peter 2:23).

So how do you receive this kind of forgiveness?

How are we forgiven for our thoughts of Anger?

Start with confession.

Cry out to a Holy God telling Him that you know that you've been angry and called people names.

You now know the severity of your sin and tell Jesus that you need Him as your Lord and Savior. *for forgiveness.*

When you do *confess your sin.* ~~this~~ something amazing happens—God's holy and righteous anger toward you has been extinguished.

It's called propitiation.

Jesus endured the wrath of God for your anger.

Your sins have been spiritually transferred to the cross while Jesus' perfect life has been transferred to you. *Imp. tel.*

✦ **Romans 10:9**—If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. *-this is how you are forgiven from anger*

If you have done that and are a Disciple of Jesus, I wanted to leave you with four sources of anger that you now need to be aware of.

It's ~~now~~ in the awareness of your anger that you can take your anger to the Lord and have Him walk with you to curb and even extinguish it all together.

#1 - Bands
The first reason source of anger is personal hurt and pain.

In other words— your heart is wounded.

When you experience rejection or emotional pain of some kind, anger can become a protective wall keeping people, pain and hurt away. (The Sons of Jacob in Genesis 37:3-4)

#2
The second is injustice—your rights have been violated.

We all have a general knowledge of right and wrong, fair and unfair, just and unjust.

When you perceive an injustice to you or others—especially those you love—you may feel angry.

If you hold onto this offense—your unresolved anger can begin to take root in your heart. (King Saul in 1 Samuel 20:32)

#3
Number three is fear. We become angry when our future is threatened.

Everyone is created with a God-given inner need for security.

When you begin to worry or feel threatened, you may become angry because of the change in our circumstances.

Here's the key to fear—a fearful heart reveals a lack of trust in God's plan for your life. (King Saul in 1 Samuel 18:8-12).

#4
Lastly, we get angry because of our performance level.

Everyone has a God given inner need for significance.

When your efforts are thwarted or do not meet your own personal expectations, your sense of significance can be threatened causing you to be angry.

Frustration over unmet expectations of yourself or other is a major source of anger.

(Cain in Genesis 4:3-8).

Dear friends, Jesus shows us the severity of our anger, how to be forgiven from anger & lastly how to be free from anger, today

PRAAYER

LORD'S SUPPER

BENEDICTION

2 Cor. 13:11—Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

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