

Second Baptist Church

1709 Barrow Rd | Little Rock, AR
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Christian Righteous: Avoiding Excessive Anger

Matthew 5: 21-26

Jesus had told His disciples that unless their righteousness exceeded the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, they could not enter the kingdom of heaven.

In our lesson today, the Lord begins to explain more clearly, using various illustrations, the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees and the kind of righteousness which exceeds it. He begins by instructing His followers in the area of “anger,” and He explains how it relates to the sin of murder.

I. A False I _____ (v 21)

A. Observing the Law O _____ (v. 21)

B. Neglecting the Law I _____ (v. 22)

With His words “**But I say to you**”, Jesus begins to expound upon the proper meaning and true intent of the 6th commandment. Jesus redefines murder by addressing its root cause.

We learn from Jesus’ teaching that to be U _____ angry with someone is as evil as actually murdering that individual. Jesus is saying that anger is murder in the heart.

II. A Fuller E _____

A. Feeling Anger

The Bible has many condemnations of anger within its pages:

(Psalm 37: 8; Proverbs 14: 17, 29; 16: 32; 19: 11; 29: 22; Eccl.7: 9; Eph.4: 31; James 1: 19-20)

B. E _____ Anger

The word Jesus used in Matthew 5:22 (angry) means “a settled anger, malice that is nursed inwardly.”

Anger often leads to name calling with the intent of humiliating a person.

The term “**Raca**” means “E _____ or worthless one”, while the word “**fool**” means to be “dull or S _____.”

There is such a thing as “character assassination.” (Prov.18: 21)

C. Judging Anger (v. 22)

In using the words “the judgment”, “the council”, and “hell fire”, the Lord was reminding those of His day as well as all of us that we will be judged (by God) for our attitudes as well as our actions, and that judgment could be very severe. (Matt.12: 36; Rom.14: 12; 2 Cor.5: 10)

D. C _____ Anger

1. Rage (Eccl.7: 9a)
2. R _____ (Eccl.7: 9b)
3. Righteous Indignation

There are times when it is right to be angry. (Matt. 21:12-13)

III. A Favorable Reconciliation

A. The P _____ of Reconciliation (v. 23-24)

Please notice that WE are to take the initiative to go to our brother/sister; we are not to wait for him/her to come to us.

B. The U _____ of Reconciliation (v. 25-26)

Every day spent at odds with a brother is a day spent at odds with God.