

Anger That Leads to Murder

Date 5/1/11 WBCFWB

Text: Matt. 5:21-26

Introduction:

- Civilized societies always considered murder to be a serious crime worthy of judgment.
- But anger is a different matter – most don't take Anger seriously.
- Few have ever thought of anger as being on the same level as murder and worthy of serious judgment.
- Christ says that anger "**without a cause**" is the same as murder and shall receive the same judgment from God.
- Words "**brother**" and "**whosoever**" (vs.22-24). Christ is saying that every human being is a brother under God's creation. His words applies universally to every human being.

Look at anger from Jesus teaching; (1.Description, 2.Danger, 3. Dissolve of anger)

(5:21-48) "**Ye have heard**"— "**It hath been said**": these words are found in every paragraph or subject of these verses. It is important to understand this: Christ is referring not only to the ten commandments, but also to the Scribal Law of the Jewish teachers. Very simply put, Christ is giving the real meaning of certain laws, just what God originally intended the law to say.

I. Angers Description: (v.21-22) (Note: All sub-points on "PP")

A. (v.21) **Murder**: law against murder is the 6th commandment (Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17).

- **God's law is given to protect life**. Life is to be respected and cherished.
- **No life is to be taken, neither one's own life nor the life of anyone else**.

"Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

(Romans 13:9) "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, **Thou shalt not kill**, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and **if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying**, namely, ***Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself***".

B. (5:22a) The real meaning of this law is anger.

- What is Christ saying: saying that man has a problem and misreads God's law.
- Man interprets God's law to say what he wishes it to say.
- He applies it only to the outward act, in this case to the act of murder.
- He **fails to look inward**—within himself—to the cause (5:17-18).
- **Murder is deeper than just an outward act. It is an inward act: anger, bitterness.**
- **Murder is born from within**, from an **uncontrolled spirit, from an unregulated urge, from an inner anger**.
- **Anger itself is the real sin, the sin that breaks the law of God.**

Anger is...(bitterness / indignation & wrath / striking out against a person / a hatred of oneself / slandering and destroying a person's image (who is created in God's image) / rage & fury, an uncontrolled spirit / desiring a person's hurt / envying & killing a person's happiness)

- Striking out at a person is clearly forbidden, but so are the bad feelings against a person.
- Anger—**any bad feelings whatsoever against a person—is sin, serious sin**.

C. (v.22b) **The growth of anger is hazardous.**

- **Unresolved anger will fester / can become uncontrollable** and *give birth to murder*.
- There are **three steps in the growth of anger** given here.

1. The anger that broods, that is selfish.

It harbors malice; it will not forget; it lingers; it broods; it wills revenge and sometimes seeks revenge.

2. The anger that holds contempt.

It despises; it ridicules; it arrogantly exalts self and calls another person empty and useless. This is an anger that is **full of malice**. It **despises and scorns**. It **arises from pride—a proud wrath**. **Such feelings or anger walk over and trample a person**. It says that whatever ill comes upon a person is deserved.

3. The anger that curses.

It seeks to destroy a man and his reputation **morally, intellectually, and spiritually**.

There is a justified anger.

(Ephes. 4:26) "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath".

- In fact, the believer must be an angry person—angry with those who sin and do wrong, and are unjust and selfish in their behavior.
- However, **a justified anger is always disciplined and controlled**; it **is always limited to those who do wrong either against God or against others**.
- The **distinguishing mark** between **justified and unjustified anger** is that a **justified anger is never selfish**; it is never shown because of what has happened to oneself.
- It is an anger that is purposeful.
- The **believer knows that he is angry for a legitimate reason**, and **he seeks to correct the situation in the most peaceful way possible**;

(Romans 12:18) "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men".

- The Lord is clear: **we must never allow anger to take hold of us without just cause**.

(Proverbs 14:17) "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated".

(Proverbs 16:32) "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city".

(Eccles. 7:9) "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools".

D. (v.22c) **The judgment of anger serious.**

- **It is a very serious matter to hold feelings against another person.**

There is;

- (1) the *danger of judgment* (judgment from others).
- (2) the *danger of having to come before earthy courts*.
- (3) the *danger of hell fire*.

- Violence is to be judged—not only before the councils of the world, but before the councils of God.

II. The Danger of Anger – (vs.25-26)

A. (v.25) The damage of holding anger.

The danger is twofold.

1. There is an earthly danger.

- Barriers can lead to serious action ranging from legal suits to imprisonment.
- Such action is tragic to God - God's people - even forbidden among true Christian brothers (1 Cor. 6:1-8).

The damage of anger is many-fold:

- It leads to increased barriers and bitterness.
- It hurts families. - It is costly.
- It damages the name of Christ and one's own testimony.
- It says to unbelievers that Christianity is a sham—no better than any other belief.
- It takes advantage of another person—always.
- It can cause a weak brother to turn away—forever.
- It can cause fights, wars, suffering, and death.

2. There is an eternal danger.

- Life does not last and the day of final judgment is coming.
- A person's judgment for holding a grudge against a brother will be severe.

B. (v.26) The terrible end of anger. (judgment is sure)

Christ made three strong points.

1. Judgment is sure. "The uttermost farthing," the last cent must be paid.

2. There will be no escape. "Thou shall by no means come out."

- There will be nothing and no one to deliver a person from the judgment;
(2 Cor. 5:10) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

3. Reconciliation should be sought "Agree with thine adversary **quickly**": - right now—before judgment, for Christ has borne all punishment for every believer (v.25).

(This also can be related to Satan's bondage [emotional prison] from sin and unforgiveness toward others and oneself)

III. The Dissolve of Anger – (vs.23-24)

A. The answer to anger is reconciliation. Christ had two things to say about this reconciling.

1. The urgency of reconciliation.

- Reconciliation is always to precede worship.
- Even when we are entering the church to worship, if there is a problem with a brother, we are to turn and go to our brother seeking reconciliation.

There are four reasons why reconciliation is more important than worship.

1) Reconciliation with God is one of the major purposes for worship.

- We worship in order to seek reconciliation and fellowship with God and others.
- Therefore, God does not accept the worship of a person who holds malice against Him or against any of His people.

A break with another person means a break with God.
Unforgiveness toward another person means unforgiveness by God.
Not being right with another person means not being right with God.
Broken fellowship with another person means broken fellowship with God.
Bad feelings toward another person mean a feeling of unacceptance by God.
Anger against another person means rejection of the grace of God.

• A person- **cannot expect to be right with God if he is not right with his brother.**
(1 John 4:20-21) "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also".

2) Bad feelings between believers hinder worship.

- **Worship is meaningless** unless a person is right with his brother.
- Reconciliation must always precede worship.

3) Worship is a time for a person to reflect and to examine his heart and life to see if there is "any wicked way" within him (Ps 139:23-23) "Search me, O God"

- It is **essential that he search his heart.**
- **Worship is not acceptable if bad or wicked feelings against others are within the human heart.**

How deceitful the human heart is!

- 1) Some try to worship with bad feelings between themselves and other persons.
- 2) Some people try to pray with wrath in their heart.
- 3) Some people say, "I love God" while they hate their brother (1 John 4:20 above).

Many stay away from worship because they have something against a brother.

The point of Christ is clear: get right with your brother and get in worship.

Sin heaped upon another is twice as dangerous and shall bring forth double judgment.

2. Time for reconciliation is while some openness still exists between the two parties.

- Reconciliation should be attempted immediately...
 - while **still in a brother's presence:** "While thou art in the way with him" (v.25).
 - before the sun goes down on a person's wrath.

(Ephes. 4:26) "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath".

- because a person cannot truly worship with barriers existing in the heart.
- because a person cannot offer acceptable prayers with barriers existing in his heart.
- because a person **could die** before reconciliation takes place and be forced to face judgment with some unconfessed sin.

"(Ephes. 4:31-32) "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you".

(Col. 3:13) "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye".

Inv.

1. Is there anyone that you are angry with right now? Will you confess, forgive / make it right?
2. Have you received God's forgiveness for ALL of your sins? Can you forgive yourself?