

The Deadly Sin of Anger (Pt. 3)

Matthew 5:21-26

- I. The Law Against Murder Quoted (21a)
- II. The Law against Murder Misinterpreted (21b)
 - A. They made it solely a physical act.
 - B. They made it entirely a negative command.
 - C. They made it primarily a social crime.
- III. The Law against Murder Explained (22)
- IV. The Law against Murder Applied (23-26)
 - A. Reconcile First, Before You Worship (23-24)

Righteous vs. Sinful Anger

- There is righteous anger...
 1. God is often righteously angry with sin and sinners (Dt. 1:37; Zech. 1:2; Heb. 3:17).
 2. Jesus became angry during His life on earth without sin...
 - With the buyers & sellers in the Temple (Mt. 21:12)
 - With the Pharisees (Mk. 3:1)
- What's the difference between righteous & sinful anger?
 - a. Righteous anger is always because God has been dishonored or others are being treated unjustly.
 - b. Sinful anger is always about me and my real or perceived rights being violated.

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How to Pursue Reconciliation

1. Go to the person privately—you must take the initiative.
2. Name the sin.
3. Accept full responsibility.
4. Ask for their forgiveness & wait for it to be offered.
5. Don't blame the one you've sinned against, if there are consequences for your sin...
 - If your anger is a habit, the person may be slow to believe your repentance is genuine.
 - If your anger has been a habit for a long time, there may be a breach of trust that will have to be slowly rebuilt over time.

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 - A. Reconcile First, Before You Worship (23-24)
 - B. Reconcile Quickly, Before the Full Consequences of Anger Are Settled (25-26)
 1. Before the human consequences come to pass (25-26)
 2. Before the divine consequences come to pass (26)