

Study of Matthew
September 25, 2022

Discussion Question: How is your anger management going?

Matthew 5:21-26 *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. 25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. 26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.”* [KJV]

Anger management became a cultural phenomenon in the 1970's. There were studies on how to control and regulate one's anger. The research showed that anger occurs because of negative emotional states that impair one's impulse control. They would try to train individuals to respond in positive ways. Interesting enough one of the ways they trained individuals to control anger was to forgive...it was a tool to turn anger off.

In this next section of Jesus Sermon on the Mount Jesus is going to show us what righteousness looks like that surpasses the Scribes and the Pharisees.

Someone has said, “Ask yourself this question; Do my attitudes and actions give others I meet a proper opinion of my Father Who is in heaven?”

This first issue Jesus deals with is anger.

Let's deal with what we stumble over first. **Is it o.k. to get angry?**

Psalms 7:11 *“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”* [KJV]

1 Kings 11:9 *“And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice”* [ESV]

Eph 4:26 *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”* [KJV]

There are some things that should make us angry.

The key to understanding anger is to not equate God's anger with human emotions. God is holy, just and righteous and HE cannot violate HIS character. Since God cannot sin, then HIS anger; indignation; wrath is righteous.

James 1:19-20 *“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.”* [ESV]

Murder is an unjust killing...

Jesus is teaching that unrighteous anger kills...it kills our relationship with our Heavenly Father and it kills our relationships with our fellow man and ruins lives in the process.

Let's look a few thoughts in the text:

1. Man's Anger is a Condition of the Heart

When Jesus says, "*you have heard it said,... but I say to you*", HE is not contrasting HIS teaching with the Law of God revealed in the Old Testament. HE is contrasting what the Rabbi's were teaching in HIS day.

In effect HE was saying, here is what the Scriptures say and here is truth. They were teaching that you could justify yourself if you just didn't commit the act of murder.

Jesus says, righteousness goes much deeper than the act. Righteousness deals with the thoughts, intents and the emotions.

2. Man's Anger Condemns (vs. 22)

Note your brother...here we are talking about how we treat each other, and I would go so far as say, those in the Kingdom of God.

We are in an all out war against the works of darkness and one of the devil's schemes is to get us to be angry with each other. If we are fighting each other, we are not a threat to his kingdom.

If you say to your brother, racca – you are good for nothing; if you call your brother a fool; a loose living person...you accuse your brother falsely... Jesus said, you are in danger of hell fire;

Condemnation on yourself because you have slandered God's redeemed

1 John 3:14 – 15 "*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*" (ESV)

3. Man's Anger Corrupts Worship (vs. 23 – 24)

4. Man's Anger Cost (vs. 25 – 26)