

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Matthew 5:21-26

❖ Day 1

Read Matthew 5-7 for context. Reread Matthew 5:21-26 again.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

"You have heard

that the ancients were told,  
'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER'  
and 'Whoever commits murder  
shall be liable  
to the court.'

"But

I say to you

that everyone who is angry  
with his brother  
shall be guilty before the court;  
and whoever says to his brother,  
'You good-for-nothing,'  
shall be guilty before the supreme court;  
and whoever says,  
'You fool,'  
shall be guilty [enough to go] into the fiery hell.

"Therefore if you

are presenting your offering  
at the altar,  
and there remember  
that your brother has something against you,  
leave your offering there before the altar  
and go;  
first be reconciled to your brother,  
and then come and present your offering.

"Make friends quickly

with your opponent at law  
while you are with him on the way,  
so that your opponent  
may not hand you over to the judge,  
and the judge to the officer,  
and you be thrown into prison.

"Truly I say to you,

you will not come out of there  
until you have paid up the last cent.

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1. Where does our passage fall in relation to the larger context of Matthew? What is Matthew 5-7 commonly referred to as? What just happened prior? Who is speaking? Location? Time? Etc.
2. What is the main point or truth being taught in chapters 5-7? What truth is Jesus pointing to with everything He is saying?
3. In Matthew 5:17-47 Jesus goes into a discourse where He interprets and corrects wrong thinking of 6 different commands in the Old Testament. List out these Old Testament passages? What is the repetitive truth Jesus is expressing?
4. What is the Old Testament passage that Jesus is quoting/expounding in vs 21? Use the cross references in a study bible for help.
5. Considering the Old Testament context, who are the “ancients” described in verse 21?
6. Who are Jesus’ words in verse 22 describing?

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7. What heart attitude to which Jesus is correlation murder according to verse 26?

❖ Day 2

Read Matthew 5:21-26 again.

8. Do you view the heart attitude of anger as egregiously as the Lord does comparing it to murder? Why or why not?

9. Verse 22 gives 3 examples/illustrations that show the divine definition of murder. What are the 3 illustrations?

10. What is the difference between the 3 illustrations and how are do they correlate to murder?

11. How are these three examples/illustrations progressing? Are they intensifying or are they getting less serious from first to last? Why might this be the case? Support your answer with proof from the text.

12. Using a good study bible, commentary, Bible software, website such as blue letter bible, or app like literal word do a brief word study of "Anger", "good-for-nothing," and "fool" as found in verse 22. What do these words mean?

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13. What is the function of the “therefore” in verse 23? What is it connecting back to?
  
14. What does the Lord command us to do when we have wronged someone, specifically regarding our anger according to these verses?
  
15. There are two components to the command “go” in verse 24. You can see these clearly in the structural diagram above. What are these two components?

❖ Day 3

Read Matthew 5:21-26 again.

16. Who are you to make friends with according to the command in verse 25?
  
17. Verse 25 commands to “make friends quickly.” Look up the word “make friends” using Bible study tools such as the ones mentioned in question 10 to further understand the meaning of this command. What do you learn?
  
18. What is the reason given in verse 25 for why you should “make friends quickly?”
  
19. When will the person be released from jail if they do not “make friends quickly?”
  
20. In verses 25-26 Jesus uses a common illustration of the time of 2 people with a disagreement going to court. He is using this to help explain verses 23-24. What is Jesus emphasizing in verses 25-26 to help explain the truths in verses 23-24?

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21. Is there anyone who you have expressed anger towards that you have not sought reconciliation with? Write their names down and make plans to immediately ask for their forgiveness and seek reconciliation as the Lord commands in this passage.
  
22. If chapters 5-7 are explaining what the requirements are to be a citizen in His kingdom can a Christian be characterized by anger and be a citizen of the kingdom? What warning should we draw from this? How should we deal with our anger in relation to the warning Jesus gives?
  
23. How is the anger described here different from the anger Jesus expressed cleansing the temple in Matthew 21:12-13?
  
24. What is the main truth being taught in Matthew 5:21-26? Summarize it in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that you would take the righteousness of God seriously. Pray you would not belittle any sin, particularly anger toward others. Pray confessing anger and seeking reconciliation with any with whom you might be angry.