

## Matthew 5:21-26

### Introduction

#### I. Matthew 5:21

- A. Old Testament background.
1. Exodus 20:13 – You shall not murder.
  2. Numbers 35:30 – If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death.
- B. Jesus says “You have *heard* that it was said”, as though *somehow* we have heard \_\_\_\_\_!

#### II. Matthew 5:22

- A. “But I say to you”
1. Jesus is not about to contradict Moses and the Law. What He *is* about to contradict is a very deficient \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the sixth commandment.
  2. When Jesus says “But I say to you”, He is calling us to submit ourselves to His teaching as the \_\_\_\_\_ authority.
- B. “Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.”
- C. “Whoever insults [lit. says *raca* to] his brother will be liable to the council.”
1. *Raca* is probably a word that mocks someone’s \_\_\_\_\_ (“blockhead”).
  2. The Counsel is the Sanhedren – the \_\_\_\_\_ court of the Jews.
- D. “Whoever says, ‘you fool!’ will be liable to the hell [Gehenna] of fire.”
1. “You fool” is an insult to someone’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The hell of fire is the place of the final punishment and \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked.

### III. Matthew 5:21-22 – Summary and Observations

- A. “You have heard that it was said to those of old...”
1. Underlying what we have heard is the conclusion that *if* we refrain from taking another person’s life, we have \_\_\_\_\_ in keeping the sixth commandment.
  2. Mark 10:17-20 – And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”
- B. “But I say to you...”
1. The sixth commandment doesn’t just forbid murder, it forbids \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ words.
  2. The one who breaks the sixth commandment isn’t just liable to execution, but to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. How can this be?
1. Matthew 15:19 – For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, *murder*...  
Matthew 12:34 – Out of the abundance of the **heart** the mouth *speaks*.
  2. The insulting word and the act of murder both flow from the **exact** \_\_\_\_\_ root attitude of the heart. **There is no** \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. 1 John 3:15 – Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
  4. Anger *is* legitimate when it burns purely with a zeal for God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and a hatred of sin and \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Jesus, Mat. 21:12; Mk. 3:1; David; Psalm 139).
  5. But the vast majority of our anger (if not *all* our anger) is an anger that \_\_\_\_\_ us all to hell.
  6. We have immunized ourselves to this truth if it doesn’t grip us with sheer \_\_\_\_\_.

- D. “You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you...”
1. Jesus has replaced a righteousness that is 100% achievable with a righteousness that is \_\_\_\_\_ to fully achieve.
  2. Jesus has accused us of murder so that we are no less deserving of hell than the worst kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. And yet Jesus also said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
  4. For those who see their \_\_\_\_\_ for a Savior, there *is* a Savior.

### **The Lord’s Supper**

- ✓ Romans 8:1-4 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- ✓ After showing how we are all guilty of *breaking* the sixth commandment, Jesus then shows us *how* to go about \_\_\_\_\_ the sixth commandment.

### **IV. Matthew 5:23-24**

#### A. Explanation

1. Jesus gave this instruction in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The only altar for sacrifice was in Jerusalem at the Temple \_\_\_\_\_ miles away.

#### B. Application

- ✓ The sixth commandment teaches us that we should seek reconciliation with the brother we have offended as a matter of the very highest \_\_\_\_\_.

### **V. Matthew 5:25-26**

#### A. Explanation

#### B. Application

- ✓ The sixth commandment teaches us that there should be no sacrifice too \_\_\_\_\_ to make, and no greater matter of \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to being reconciled with an offended brother.

**As those who have been driven by the Law to Jesus and His cross,  
let us now diligently and *joyfully* strive to obey the Law as Jesus taught it –  
without any fear of condemnation.**

## Teaching our Children

Q. Complete this sentence: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not...’”.  
A. You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.

Q. Does the Old Testament Law really say this?  
A. Yes, it does. (See I. A.)

Q. What was wrong with most peoples’ understanding of this commandment? What wrong idea did they have?

A. Most people believed that if they had never killed a person, then they had succeeded in keeping the sixth commandment (“You shall not murder”).

Q. Jesus corrects this wrong thinking by saying that some of the things that even “good” people do are really just as bad as killing someone in God’s eyes. What things was Jesus talking about?

A. Being angry with someone / insulting someone with unkind words.

Q. What does a person who is angry or who insults someone with unkind words deserve?

A. Death and Hell. (Just the same as the person who kills someone.)

Q. How can an unkind word make us just as guilty as murder!?!?

A. See III. C. 1.-3.

Q. Is it possible for us to perfectly keep the sixth commandment? What does this mean *we* deserve?

A. No! It is *impossible* for us to perfectly keep the sixth commandment. We deserve death and hell.

- ✓ Meditate on Matthew 5:3 and lead your children to glory in Christ!
- ✓ Read Romans 8:1-4 and joyfully lead your children back to the Law without any fear of condemnation.
- ✓ Read the two examples that Jesus gives in Matthew 5:23-26 and discuss how we should be diligent and careful to joyfully obey the *heart* of the sixth commandment and truly do what pleases God (cf. Matthew 5:9 – “Blessed are the peacemakers”).