

This morning, "Why do the heathen rage? And the people imagine a vain thing?"

This evening, "Why are you angry? The first time we see anger in the Word of God, it is the anger of Cain, who's offering was rejected by the LORD, while his brother's offering was accepted. I pray the Lord will teach us, this evening, the grave danger of sinful anger! Genesis 4:1-8

Cain was "very wroth", he was in a rage and furious!

On the surface, it may look like the root cause of Cain's anger was the Lord's refusal of his offering. (That was the straw that broke the camel's back), but the root of Cain's anger was his rebellion against God, which began long before he brought his offering. Cain rebelled against the revealed will of God in NOT bringing what God commanded him to bring.

And then, even after his offering was refused, God gave Cain EVERY opportunity to correct his error, but he would not repent of his sin, he would not submit himself to God and forsake his anger against the LORD, which regrettably led him to murder his younger brother.

Proverbs 19:3: "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD". To Fret here means to be angry and enraged!

It was Cain's foolish and rebellious heart that perverted his way from the commandment of the LORD, and when God revealed to him that he was wrong, he was enraged against the LORD. FF to the Sermon on the Mount!

(V21): "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"

The 6th Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill" literally means "thou shalt not murder". Meaning to unlawfully kill another person; to commit premeditated murder, deliberately, intentionally, and maliciously.

YOU, saith the Lord Jesus, are only considering "THE ACT" of murder, and yes, if you commit murder, you are in danger of the judgment! EVERYONE knew this; EVERYONE knows this today! In fact, when you tell sinners that they've sinned against God, so often you hear; well, I haven't killed anyone; I'm not a murderer!

THIS is the righteousness that the scribes and Pharisees stood upon and taught; it was their own righteousness! We haven't murdered anyone! This is how so many think today regarding their standing before God!

But what does the Lord see in our hearts regarding this commandment? And what does unbridled, sinful anger lead to?

Jesus then expounded the true/spiritual intent of the 6th Commandment.

BUT I SAY UNTO YOU! I have the authority to explain the intent of this command, because I am the One that gave it to

Moses for the people of Israel! I am the law Giver! (V22): BUT I say unto you!

You think you're in a right standing with God because you have NOT actually committed the act of murder!

But if you're angry with someone without a cause, I.e., if your anger is motivated by hatred and malice toward someone else, your anger (in God's eyes) is one and the same with the act of murder!

Now, there is an anger and a hatred that is NOT sinful. God speaks (in His Word) of a righteous indignation, anger, and hatred against sinners and sin, but that is NOT what Jesus was teaching here.

Consider a murderer's heart before they "actually commit" the act of murder.

Before the murderer "actually kills" with their hands, they kill with their minds and hearts! In their minds they are full of anger, rage, malice, and hatred against their victim! THIS LED CAIN TO KILL ABEL!

If you're angry with someone like this, YOU are committing the act of murder (having never laid a hand on them), and in so doing, you are in danger of the eternal damnation! God sees your rash anger/hatred of them to be no different than murder! Cain ~ Abel! 1 John 3:11-15

You could be sitting still with a straight face doing nothing; all the while, if in your heart, you're full of anger/hatred toward someone; in God's eyes, it's just like killing them. This is NOT the character of a Christian!

3:15: (Again): Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him"

The Lord takes it a few steps further:

Think about the times when your sinful and rash anger has caused you to lash out (in words) at someone; think about the terrible thoughts that rose in your heart toward that person, and then think about the terrible words and insults that came out of your mouth! RACA! Thou FOOL!

This happens when the venomous poison of our heart comes out of our mouths in slanders, insults, and name calling; this akin to committing murder with your tongue! James 3:6-10, Matthew 15:19

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned"

But YOU SAY, they were ONLY words! Listen to me; we are in troublous times; there are terribly wicked and sinful things happening in our society, we hear it at the highest levels of the leadership, in the government of our nation; we hear words of rage, anger, and hatred coming from our leaders!

Social media has become a platform for many to spew out their anger and hate toward any who disagree with their world view! Angry/Venomous words are published "instantly" on social media and the news. They are very often presented in such a way that angers every one of us.

Beloved of God BE SO CAREFUL of being sucked into this dark chasm of sin; you don't want to become a hater of the government or a hater of people in the world...do we ever see Jesus spewing out hatred toward sinners? God saved us and called us to emulate His example of being friends of sinners, loving them!

Recap: There's more to the 6th commandment than what's on the surface; EVERY act of murder originated first in an angry and hateful heart.

There are many in the world, who are angry and full of hatred in their hearts toward other persons, these are "thought killers", "word killers" who never spent a day in an earthly prison. Oh beloved, let this sin NOT be named among any of us! At first sight of it in your heart, KILL IT!

Colossians 3:1-8