

Your Hating Heart!

Matthew 5:21 **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.

- Jesus is mocking the way religious people had tried to change the meaning of the Bible to make their wicked, hating, hearts comfortable
 - They had said that if you murdered someone you would be in danger of judgment **21 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:**
 - That is totally not what God said. So Jesus will take their saying and take it all the way up to the point that the person who calls another a fool is the one in danger of hell fire!
 - So murder only got judgment according to their tradition.
 - Jesus takes it all the way up a chain of punishments

- Man's first crime was murder **Genesis 4:8** **And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and **slew him.**** **9** **And the Lord said unto Cain, **Where is Abel thy brother?**** **And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?** **10** **And he said, What hast thou done? **the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.**** **13** **And Cain said unto the Lord, **My punishment is greater than I can bear.****
- In 2010 there were 14,043 murders for an average of just over 38 per day
- There were 38,364 suicides or self murders in 2010 for an average of just over 105 per day
- In 2010 there were 765,651 abortions or murders of the pre born or over 2097 per day
- Man is created in the image of God. To murder another person is like an assault on God Himself

- God had said that murder would cost a person their life
Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.
- Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.
- Thou shalt not kill. Murder does not prohibit every form of killing a human being. It has to do with criminal killing. Capital punishment, just warfare, accidental homicide, and self defense is excluded from murder or this commandment of thou shalt not kill

1. At least I have never committed murder Matthew 5:21
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.

- a. It is so easy to think that we are not that bad. We have not committed murder
- b. Jesus uses a statement in this sermon that must be understood [Matthew 5:21](#) **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:
 - i. He says **Ye have heard that it was said** by them of old time,
 - ii. That is not saying that Moses was wrong or that the Old Testament law was wrong
 - iii. His reference is to what the Pharisees and religious leaders had done
 - 1. They had changed the truth to what they felt was right and good
 - 2. For them murder had become a civil offense
 - 3. It had become simply the physical offense instead of an issue of the heart
 - a. The court would decide the penalty they thought was right

- b. God's character wasn't even mentioned, the fact that the individual had sinned against God, and placed himself in God's place determining and dispensing judgment
- c. The heart wasn't even mentioned
- iv. God's Word had prescribed death as the penalty

Numbers 35:30 Whoso **killeth any person,** the murderer shall be **put to death** by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person **to cause him to die.** ³¹

Moreover ye shall take **no satisfaction for the life** of a murderer, which *is* guilty of death: but he shall **be surely put to death.**

- v. God's Word is being explained and clarified by Jesus
- c. God's Word was concerned not with external, legalistic behavior but the heart Psalm 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
- i. God's people didn't know the Word of God like they should

- ii. They knew more what the religious leaders were telling them
- iii. They were not reading and studying the Bible for themselves
- d. What Jesus was saying was "You can't justify yourselves just because you have never committed the physical act of murder!"
 - i. Murder is not something you do with just the hands, it originates in the heart
 - ii. The Pharisees, religious people of the day, saw righteousness as an external so they could see themselves in a good light
 - iii. Now Jesus says that it wasn't just the act of murder but even when you are angry with, hating, cursing, and maligning another person
- e. So what is murder **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.

- i. Anger and hating your brother [I John 3:15](#)

Whosoever **hateth** his brother is a **murderer:**
and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life
abiding in him.

1. Not all anger is wrong

- a. Jesus was angry and cleansed the temple

[Matthew 21:12–13](#)

- b. We are told to be angry and sin not

[Ephesians 4:26](#) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not
the sun go down upon your wrath:

- c. God is angry with the wicked [Psalm 7:11](#) God
judgeth the righteous, and God is angry *with the
wicked every day.*

2. The anger that is wrong is a brooding, simmering
anger that is nurtured and not allowed to die.

- a. It is holding a grudge

- b. Having a smoldering bitterness that refuses to
forgive

- c. It is cherishing resentment and not wanting
reconciliation

d. It is the idea of a root of bitterness

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

ii. Saying Raca 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.

1. Was a common nickname, an insult, used in Jesus day. It has no modern equivalent
2. It was a term of malicious abuse, derision, and slander
3. It meant some thing like brainless idiot, worthless fellow, silly fool, empty head, blockhead
4. David describes the idea Psalm 140:3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; Adders' poison *is* under their lips. Selah.

5. It was the type of word that would have been used by the soldiers who mocked Jesus as they placed the crown of thorns on His head and led Him out to be crucified
 6. It is slandering a creature that God has made in His image which is slandering God Himself
 7. Contempt which is murder in the heart
- iii. Calling someone a fool and condemning their character **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.
1. The word fool means stupid, not intelligent and is the same word where we get the word moron
 2. To be angry is the basic evil behind murder; to slander a person with a term such as *Raca* is even more serious, because it gives expression to that anger; and to condemn a person's character by calling him a **fool** is more slanderous still.

3. The Psalms on two different occasions use the word fool to speak of the godless **Psalm 14:1** **The fool** hath said in his heart, ***There is no God.*** They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good.* **Psalm 53:1** The **fool** hath said in his heart, ***There is no God.*** Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is none that doeth good.* **Psalm 10:4** The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, **will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.**
4. To call a person a fool is the same as cursing him and murdering him, and to be guilty of that sin is to be worthy of the eternal punishment of **fiery hell.**
- f. Time to evaluate ourselves
- i. Do we have this hatred in our heart?

- ii. Do we try to justify ourselves saying that at least we have only thought about it?
- iii. Have we tried to use the Bible to justify our bitterness, anger, and hatred?
- iv. Ask yourself is you are guilty of a brooding, simmering anger that you simply will not allow to die?
 - 1. Does your spouse ever mention that to you?
 - 2. Do others notice this in you?
- v. Do you slander others and feel contempt towards them?

2. Anger, hatred, and bitters interfere with our worship of God. The real issue is your heart. Murder is simply an outgrowth. What is in your heart is hindering your worship of God **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.**

- a. The religious people practiced worship but it was external and not from the heart
- b. If you have sin in your heart then your external acts are not acceptable to God
- c. Jesus has just put anger and hatred on the same level as murder and adultery
- d. God had taught His people to not only worship but to

live out their faith [Isaiah 1:11](#) **To what**

purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: **I am full of the burnt offerings** of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of the goats. [16](#) **Wash** you, **make you clean; put away** the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; **cease** to do evil; [17](#) **Learn** to do well; **seek** judgment, **relieve** the oppressed, **judge** the fatherless, **plead** for the widow. [Jeremiah 7:9](#) **Will ye** steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after

other gods whom ye know not; **10 And come and stand before me in this house,** which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

- e. The real issue is our heart **Psalm 66:18** *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*
- f. Obedience is better than any offering we can bring **I Samuel 15:22** *And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to hearken than the fat of rams.*
- g. Do you realize that if you are worshipping God with this anger, hatred, and bitterness in your heart that it is hindering your worship? He wants you to get it right! Your heart affects all of you. Coming to church, giving, praying, teaching, and witnessing are no substitute for repentance.

3. Immediately get things right **25 Agree with thine adversary quickly,** while 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.

- a. The teaching of this passage is immediate repentance.
- b. Believers should never allow bitterness, anger, hatred, or any other sin to separate us from other people
- c. If you are not very careful your hatred, bitterness, and bad attitudes will catch up with you
- d. You will be caught in a web, in a prison you can't get free from
- e. It will affect you and your entire family. **Hebrews 12:15**
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;