



## Murder, Anger and Contempt

Aug 24

**INTRODUCTION:** What does true righteousness look like in the Kingdom? It flows from a heart transformed by the Word.

Jesus violated traditional Jewish understandings of the Law (traditions, c.f. Mk 7:7), but never the Law itself—otherwise He would have broken His own rules not to mention becoming unrighteous!

In this first portion of the Sermon He interacts with 6 contemporary areas of the Law to retrieve their original meaning for citizens of the Kingdom to attain by faith.

**CHALLENGE:** In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Morning of Music)

- Discuss some of the lessons we've been learning from "Bible Verses Not in the Bible" (BVNITB).
- Reflect upon the morning's BVNITB.
- Why has music always played such an important part in the people of God?
- What has God spoken about the ministry of music?

**READ:** Mt 5:21–26

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *In the coming passages Jesus begins by saying, "you have heard that it was said" and then continues "but I say to you." Read Mt 6:43. Nowhere in the OT did God command to hate one's enemy, but some Rabbis taught this (c.f. Jonah). How does this show that far from reinterpreting or destroying the Law Jesus was reforming or retrieving?*

Anger

2. *V.21- Jesus is referring the sin of premeditated murder (Ex 20:13) and capital punishment (Gen 9:6; Nu 35:31). (and affirming the command and the penalty).*

3. **Even though morality is crumbling why do most still recognize murder as a sin that should be punished?**
4. **Why don't many people like how Jesus expands one's culpability (guilt) to include the dispositions of anger and contempt? How is this useful in evangelism?**

Murder, v. 22a

5. **How does anger lead to murder (Ja 1:20) or disastrous effects in our lives (Prov 29:22)?**
6. Consider the first murder (Gen 4). How was anger a factor?
7. ***BUT, wasn't Jesus angry at times? How was Jesus angry but without sin (Eph 4:26)? (hint- slow to anger, other focused and grief over sin)***

Contempt, v. 22b

8. It is not only anger that can lead to murder but also contempt. Insults=*Raca*, a term of abuse against one's mind (idiot, dummy, etc); Fool, a term of abuse against someone's character (e.g. scoundrel). Combined they mean "they're good for nothing."
9. In what way can we show contempt toward others? (parents, children, Christians, leaders, neighbours, co-workers, etc). How is this destructive for us and others?
10. **BUT didn't Jesus contradict Himself (e.g. Mt 23:17)?**
11. **Will those who do not repent/who persist in such since gain entrance into the Kingdom? (Gal 5:19–21; Rev 22:15) How does this related to the 6<sup>th</sup> Beatitude? (Eph 4:31; Col 3:8). How does this relate to the Gospel?**

*Jesus has forbidden the act of murder and the attitudes of anger and contempt. In v. 23 "so" or "therefore" He makes application by positively commanding His disciples to make peace with our brothers and even our adversaries!*

1<sup>st</sup> Application, v. 23–24

12. **Read these verses and then reread them. How are they perhaps not saying what we often think they are saying?**
13. *Jesus doesn't even add clarity whether the brother has the right to be offended. A disciple of Jesus is such a peacemaker (7<sup>th</sup> Beatitude) that they go out of their way to seek peace & reconciliation. Can*

you give an example of what this initiative might look like?

2<sup>nd</sup> Application

14. Why is this a message our litigious society (law suits) needs to hear?
15. How is peace greater than our rights?
16. How can taking responsibility even for the smallest of fault enable others to confess their faults? Can you share an example of Jesus illustration?
17. *Read Ro 12:18.* Given we cannot control how others may respond, how is this verse liberating?
18. What does it mean to fulfil the law of “do not murder”? How can we attain this?

Next Week: Lust (Mt 5:27–30)