



Sermon Notes: "Kill the Anger that Murders"

Matthew 5:21-26

1.19.25

Culture says: Murder Anger

Kingdom says: Anger Murder

1. God holds us responsible -- not just for our actions, but also for our thoughts and attitudes.
2. We cannot be right with God unless we are in right relationship with those around us.
3. Instead of risking judgement we should strive to correct our mistakes as quickly as possible.

So What?

- Recognizing and admitting our wrongful handling of anger.
- Avoid Unnecessary Arguments
- Leave Room for God's Wrath
- Be gentle, extending kindness to all

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

Read Matthew 5:21-26

2. Jesus equates anger with murder in terms of its seriousness. What does this tell us about how God views the condition of our hearts versus just our external actions? How does this challenge your current view of "small" sins?
3. The passage emphasizes addressing conflicts quickly ("be reconciled...quickly"). What are some common excuses we use to delay reconciliation with others? What makes this process so difficult?
4. In verse 23-24, Jesus instructs us to leave our gift at the altar and first be reconciled with others. How does this teaching challenge our typical priorities between religious activities and interpersonal relationships?
5. Think about a current relationship where there might be unresolved anger or tension. What specific steps could you take this week to move toward reconciliation?
6. Jesus talks about settling matters quickly with adversaries. How might our relationships and communities look different if Christians were known for being quick to reconcile rather than holding grudges?

Specific Action Step:

Before next week, identify one person with whom you have unresolved tension or conflict. Write them a note (or meet in person if appropriate) expressing three things:

1. What you value about them
2. *Your* responsibility in the tension (without blaming them)
3. Your desire to *move toward* reconciliation

Don't Forget:

- January 26: Participate in Ministry Fair to find your place of service.
- Thank you for your generous donations to the Disaster Relief work the youth will be doing. We have raised over 15,000!! Fundraising continues through March (goal 27,000).

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for Jesus, who showed us that while murder is bad, it is the anger behind murder that is even worse. Help us to understand that it is the motives behind our behaviors that really concern You.

Give us hearts that desire Your ways. Help us move beyond just following rules to experiencing real transformation from the inside out. Show us the areas where we need to grow and give us courage to respond when Your Spirit convicts us. Let our lives point others to You and Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.