

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-
7:12

Matthew 5:21-26

"Murder & Anger"

**True Righteousness
Extends Beyond The
Letter of The Law!**

The common application of the 6th commandment - 5:21

The Law of God reaches beyond the act - 5:22

How to deal with anger and hatred - 5:23-26

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The Righteousness of the One Ruled By God . . .



- ◆ Having described the CITIZENS of the kingdom, Jesus now proceeds to describe the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the kingdom - (5:17-7:12) He began by correcting a false impression some may have had about His relationship with the Law of Moses and the Prophets. (5:17-19)
- ◆ He then emphasizes that the righteousness of the kingdom citizen must exceed that of the Scribes & Pharisees. (5:20)

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Matthew 5:21-26 (NKJV)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

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Matthew 5:21-26 (NKJV)

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

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Matthew 5:21-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

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You have heard that it was said to those of old,



Jesus did not set himself against the law of Moses, but against the false and pernicious interpretations of the law prevalent in his time.

21 'You shall not murder, . . .

27 'You shall not commit adultery.'

. . .

31 'Whoever **divorces** his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' . . .

33 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your **oaths** to the Lord.' . . .

38 'An **eye** for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' . . .

43 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' . . .

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You have heard that it was said to those of old,



- ◆ Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom - (4:23)
- ◆ Pharisaic righteousness is not enough to gain entrance into the coming kingdom - (5:20).
- ◆ A contrast of their teaching (“*you have heard it said*”), vs. His teaching, (“*But I say unto you*”)

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You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' (5:21)



- ◆ In this first example, Christ draws attention to the sixth commandment, which condemned murder (Ex 20:13)
- ◆ The Scribes & Pharisees taught murder was wrong and should be punished - (5:22)
- ◆ What about the attitudes leading to murder?

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You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' (5:21)



- ◆ The Law also required “*love your neighbor as yourself*” - (Deut. 6:5; Lev 19:8)
- ◆ The ethical principles of the Law were not superficial ordinances given to merely govern the muscle and not the mind & heart! (Ex. 20:17; Lev. 19:17; Deut 5:21; Rom 7:14)

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You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' (5:21)



- ◆ It appears that the Scribes & Pharisees were willing to take a stand against murder -
- ◆ But they could hate their brother - despise him - speak evil against him without suffering any consequences - and not be in violation of the Law.

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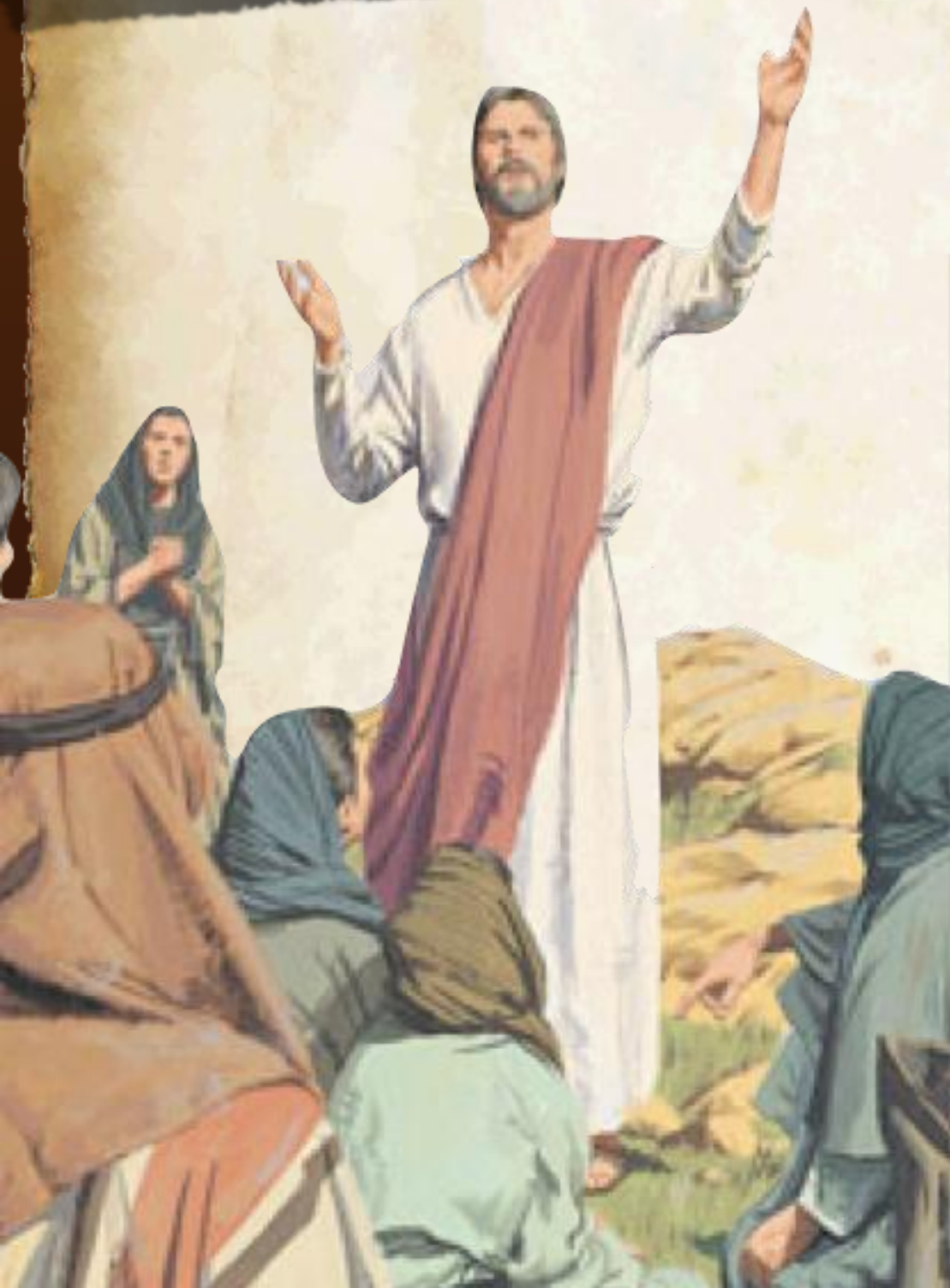
But I say to you - (5:22)



- ◆ Jesus spoke with authority -
 - ✳ “*Without a cause*” implies anger isn't wrong per se –
 - ✳ God angry w/ wicked. (Ps. 7.11)
 - ✳ Jesus was angry with hypocritical Pharisees - Mr 3:5. Jn. 2.17
 - ✳ Be angry, and sin not - Ep 4:26.
 - ✳ Righteous indignation is the proper response to ungodliness (Rom. 12.9)

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But I say to you - (5:22)

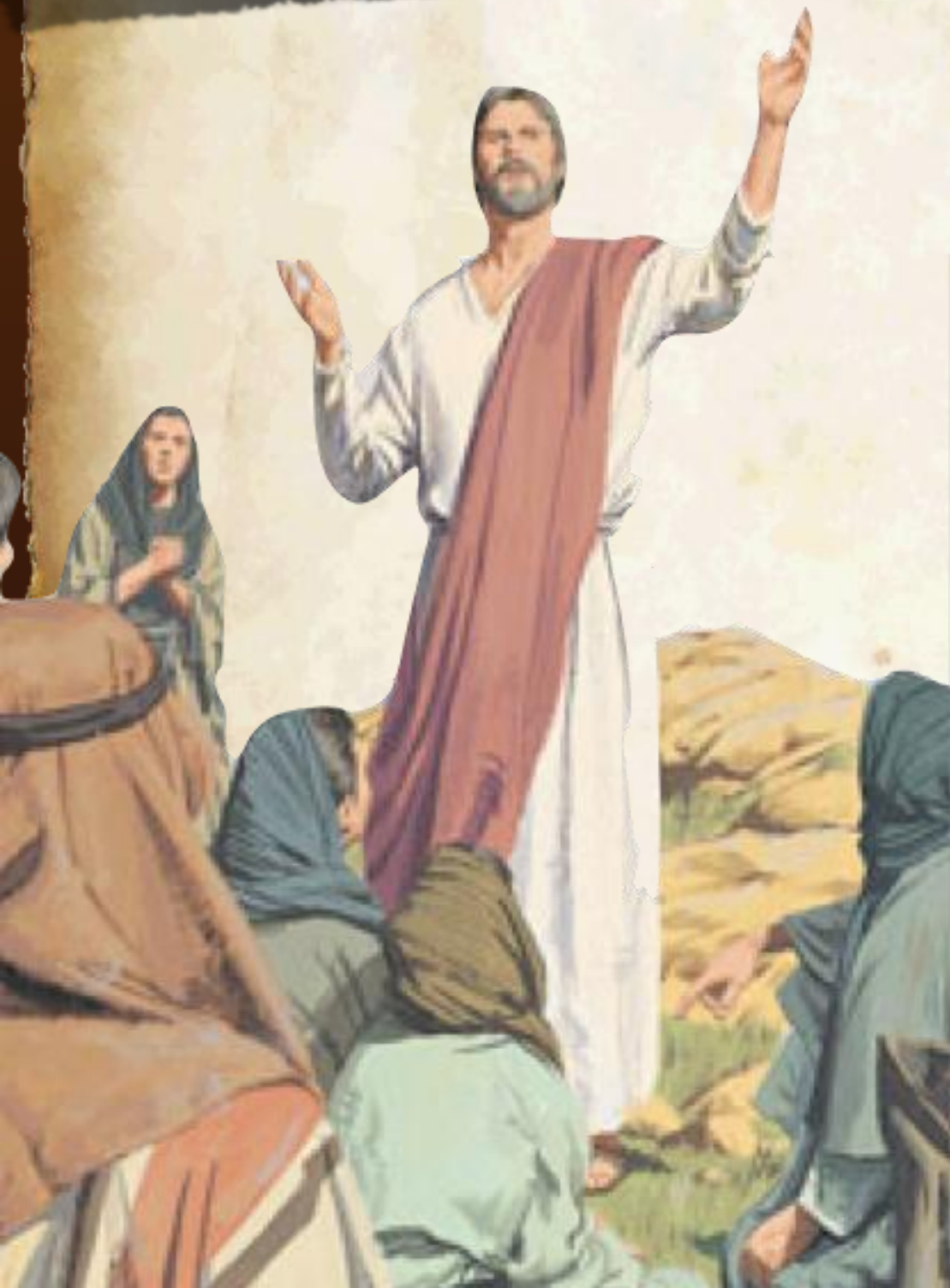


- ◆ Jesus not only condemns murder, but also evil speech - and not only evil speech - but also the unjust & vengeful anger that motivates it.
- ◆ Jesus' response accommodates their fixation with civil penalties - (*the judgment, i.e. civil court; the council, i.e. the Sanhedrin court*) - but clearly is speaking of a greater tribunal - "*danger of hell fire*"
- ◆ Civil governments do not condemn men for having murderous thoughts, but Christ does.

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But I say to you - (5:22)



- ◆ Christ isn't saying there is never a situation in which a man deserves to be called a fool (7.26-27, 23.17, *Gal. 3.1*) or that calling a man a fool is worse than calling him Raca, which is worse than being angry at him without a cause.
- ◆ Instead, He is teaching that insulting language--name calling, racial, ethnic, and social slurs, etc.--that demeans a fellow human being is condemned by God.

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But I say to you - (5:22)



- ◆ The problem of murder must be dealt with at its fountainhead.
- ◆ The heart, tongue and hand must be clean - Where there is no anger and hatred, there will be no murder - Mat 23:26
- ◆ What evil words and actions are produced by a heart that is filled with agape love? - 1 Cor 13:1-7

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But I say to you - (5:22)

1 John 3:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.

He who does not love his brother abides in death. ¹⁵

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.



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First Be Reconciled To Your Brother - 23-26

Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way.

First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



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First Be Reconciled To Your Brother - 23-26



- ◆ Attitudes that shut another out, shut God out (1 Pet. 3:7).
- ◆ Find the aggrieved brother and make peace with him. Many sought / seek zealous ceremonial worship as a cover for their moral failure - (Amos 5:21-24; Jere 7:21-23; Mat 23:23,24; Ro 12:18-21)

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First Be Reconciled To Your Brother - 23-26



- ◆ The urgent need then is to repent - (*how can the impenitent worship God?*)
- ◆ Many are destroying themselves because they lack either the humility or courage to repent of sinning against another and seek their forgiveness.

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First Be Reconciled To Your Brother - 23-26



- ◆ “Agree with your adversary quickly” - 25
- ◆ To understand this as mere prudential advice to “*settle out of court*” in order to escape an earthly court is to miss the point.
- ◆ Those who show no mercy will be judged without mercy - Mat 5:26; James 2:13

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Romans 12:9-21 (NKJV)

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;



Romans 12:9-21 (NKJV)

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.



Romans 12:9-21 (NKJV)

¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

