

Anger: The Silent Killer **Matthew 5:21-26**

Intro: At the risk of stating the obvious, murdering someone is not good! It's a social malfeasance that's been frowned upon for millennia. But what about the thoughts and emotions that couches the act of murder? Is it okay to be angry as long as you don't pull the trigger? Is it all right to insult someone even if you don't stab them to death? Jesus didn't think so.

I. You have heard it said...but I say to you... (vs. 21, 22)

- A. A formulaic expression repeated six times in Matthew 5
- B. A clarification between what the law said and what the Pharisees said that the law said.
- C. A means of Jesus of getting at the spirit of the law.

II. Jesus on adding insult to injury (vs. 22-26)

A. Some background from the OT

- 1. Do not murder (Exodus 20:13)
- 2. Do not insult God (Proverbs 14:31; 17:5)
- 3. Do not insult people (Lamentations 3:30, 61-66)

B. Some NT teaching

- 1. Do not seek vengeance (Matthew 5:39; cf. Romans 12:19)
- 2. Do not develop a "martyr's complex" (II Corinthians 12:10)
- 3. Do not engage in name calling (Matthew 5:22)
- 4. DO seek reconciliation (5:24: "go...first be reconciled")

- a. Whether the innocent party (vs. 23, 24)
- b. whether the offended party (vs. 25, 26)

III. Name calling, insults or anger are not to be the conduct of those who are salt or light in this world.