Scripture Reading – Matthew 5:21-26

- 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Anger

Matthew 5:21-26




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Alexander the Great

- King of Macedon
- Created one of the largest empires in history.
- Never defeated in battle
- Founded the great city of Alexandria in Egypt
- koine Greek because of him
- Trusted general, Cleitus the Black
- Killed Cleitus in a fit of rage
- Lost trust of all his inner circle



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Getting To The Heart Of The Law

- Jesus teaching the Sermon on the Mount
- Goes through multiple commandments and refines them
- Exodus 20:13- “You shall not murder”
- It’s not the act that is the root cause of the problem.
- It is the heart

Genesis 4:3

- 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD
an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel
also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of
their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for
Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his
offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry,
and his face fell. 6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why
are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If
you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you
do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its
desire is for you, and you must rule over it.”
8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they
were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother
Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain,
“Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not
know; am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 And the LORD
said, “What have you done? The voice of your
brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.

Cain Kills Abel

- Abel's offering was pleasing to God
  - Gave the best of what he had with a faithful heart
- Cain's offering did not find favor
  - Gave a general portion
- Cain became jealous and angry
- Killed Abel out of his jealousy and anger

1 Samuel 16:7

- 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Hebrews 11:4-12

- **4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.**

Attitude

- We can discern the attitude, faith, and motivation in our hearts are more at the core of our behavior, than the actions themselves.

Numbers 20:8-12

8 “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and
Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield
its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and
give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” 9 And Moses
took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.
Moses Strikes the Rock
10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together
before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels:
shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” 11 And Moses
lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and
water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and
their livestock. 12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
“Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in
the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring
this assembly into the land that I have given them.” 13 These
are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel
quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed
himself holy.

Moses And The Israelites

- People of Israel became impatient and quarreled with Moses and Aaron
- Same people who were brought out of Egyptian captivity.
- Had seen all the plagues and miracles
- Let their complaints make him angry
- As a result, he acted in his anger and was punished by God.

Other Biblical Examples

- People in the Synagogue in Nazarath angry with Jesus- tried to drive him off a cliff
- People in the Synagogue angry with Stephen- stoned him to death
- Saul hunting David out of anger and jealousy.
- All show a deeper issue, the heart was not in the right place.

Another Type of Anger

- Righteous anger
- Anger when the heart is pure
- Jesus and the Temple
    - John 2:13-17

Exodus 32:19-20

19 And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the
calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he
threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the
foot of the mountain. 20 He took the calf that they had
made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and
scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel
drink it.
21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to
you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"
22 And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot.
You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they
said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for
this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of
Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 24 So I
said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they
gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came
this calf."

Impact of Anger

- Impacts the way we:
  - Interact
  - Treat people
  - Show faithfulness and faithlessness