

Reconciliation

Jesus Says: A Series on the Sermon on the Mount Part 5

Matthew 5:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Hilltoppers for Christ | Worship Wednesday | 9.27.17

We get mad at the stupidest things sometimes.

- On Sunday afternoon I was walking our dog and my fantasy football app would not open or cooperate and I got so frustrated. And after a couple of minutes of walking I thought that I was the dumbest guy around to get so upset by that when there is so much more bad things going around in the world.
- This made me think of some other stupid things that made me disproportionality mad.
 - Show slide show.¹
- What're some other stupid things you get mad at?
 - Traffic
 - TV shows
 - Social media arguments

People make us angry.

- If I were to ask you what you've been argriest at in your life, or if I were to ask you to list the top 10 times you've been the angriest, all of those would include people.
- People make us angry.
- Right now, some of you are fuming over an argument, disagreement you've had with someone else, or about what someone else did to you.
- Some of your biggest hurts were caused not by you, but by of other people.
- And there are some of you that if I were to bring up this one person's name, your mood would immediately change and immediately get angry.

Matthew 5:21-26

- In Matthew 5:21-26 Jesus is going to address our anger. We're going to talk about anger, specifically about what Jesus tells us to do with those who might make us angry.

Murder and Anger

- I've been pretty good today. I haven't murdered a single person today, and hopefully I won't the rest of tonight.
- But I have been angry.
- A few weeks ago when we started our series on the Sermon on the Mount I said that some of Jesus' teachings in this sermon will be some of the hardest things you will ever do. This is one of those things.

¹ "31 Inconsequential Things That Make You Insanely Angry," *Cracked*, September 8, 2016, accessed on September 27, 2017, <http://www.cracked.com/pictofacts-557-31-little-things-that-make-you-angrier-than-they-should/>.

- Jesus wants us to see that murder starts with anger. If you're angry you're on the trajectory to murder

Words hurt

- Fool and *raca* literally means "empty head"²
- We can be very sarcastic. We say stuff that we know is mean. It tears people down so much.
- What we say has eternal consequences.
 - James 3

God wants you to take the initiative to be reconciled.

- "I will gladly apologize when they apologize."
- Reconciliation is not only for the one who is offended, but also for the one who offends.
- Even if you haven't done anything wrong in your eyes, be reconciled.
- The two illustrations Jesus gives communicates that we are to be the ones who initiate the reconciliation.

How to reconcile:

- Pray for them.
- Don't talk bad about them.
- Try to view them the way God views them.
 - When you pray say, "God, help me to love this person the way you love this person."

Ultimately we can be reconciled to others because we are reconciled to God.

² Charles H. Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount: Character Formation and Decision Making in Matthew 5-7* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006), 70.