

YOU HAVE AN ANGER PROBLEM

MATTHEW 5:21-26

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - OCTOBER 13, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:21-26 ESV

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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Think about a time when you were recently angry - what made you mad?

SERMON RECAP

- Jesus clarifies the meaning and depth of God's law:
 - True righteousness is internal, not just external.
 - True righteousness is vertical, not just horizontal.
- Sin goes deeper than you realize and your guilt before God is greater than you realize - "You're not as righteous as you think you are."
- Your anger is more serious than you realize.
 - Jesus is not condemning righteous anger.
 - Jesus is not condemning righteous feelings.
 - Righteous anger is anger toward the right thing, for the right reason, to the right degree, and expressed in the right way.
- God's standard is more demanding than you realize.
 - Unresolved conflict is an URGENT situation.
 - Your relationships with other people affect your relationship with God.
- God's mercy is more liberating than you realize.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What clarifications to the law do you see in verses 21-22?
 - How does Jesus clarify the law with regard to gift-giving in verses 23-24?
 - What do you learn about reconciliation in verses 25-26 and what are the potential consequences for failing to reconcile?
 - How would you summarize Matthew 5:21-26?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Matthew 5:21-22, Psalm 137:7-9, and James 4:1-4
 - How do these passages define anger?
 - What is the difference between anger (destructive) and righteous anger (constructive)?

- What causes anger and what causes righteous anger?
2. Matthew 5:23-24, Romans 12:18, and Proverbs 9:7-8
 - Why do we often misplace the object of our anger (blame someone else rather than ourselves)?
 - How can biblical wisdom help to temper our anger?
 - How does your relationship with others impact your relationship with God and vice versa?
 3. Matthew 5:25-26 and 1 Peter 2:22-24
 - What are the consequences of not reconciling relationships where anger exists?
 - What are the blessings of reconciling relationships where anger once ruled?
 - How does Jesus set the standard for us to follow?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Recognize anger for what it is!
 - What are some things that make you angry and how might you devalue others?
 - How do you feel when you're angry and how do you feel when your anger is finished?
 - How can you limit destructive anger and lean more into righteous anger?
 - How can your Church Group serve as a resource when you become angry?
2. Temper anger and pursue peace!
 - Against whom do you harbor anger right now?
 - Who might have anger against you right now?
 - What steps can you take to resolve any anger with others this week?
 - How can your Church Group support you as you pursue peace?
3. Accept and reflect mercy!
 - How do you reflect the mercy that you receive onto others?
 - How does fully trusting Jesus show in the way that you live your life?
 - How can you live your life as an outpouring of gratitude for what Jesus does for you?
 - How can you and your Church Group affect the world around you for Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER NIGHT | *Tuesday, November 5th from 7-9 pm* | Join us in the Tysons Auditorium on election night as we take time to sing and lift our eyes to our Lord, while praying for God's glory in our nation, as well as in every nation.