

Anger and Murder
Matthew 5:21-26
Shocking Statements of Christ
(Sermon on the Mount, Part 2)

It has been dubbed the American Sniper Trial

A) **Chris Kyle** the most lethal American Sniper in the History of the Armed forces

B) and his friend **Chad Littlefield** – were gunned down at a shooting range – **by Eddie Ray Routh**

1) An American Vet – Who was suffering from PTSD – whom **Kyle and Littlefield** were trying to help.

C) Defense attorneys tried to argue – Routh didn't know what he was doing – he is legally insane

1) Prosecutors – No, He knew exactly what he was doing – Not insane

D) The jury agreed with the Prosecutors and Routh was sentenced last week to life in Prison.

How would you hold up in a Murder trial?

A) **That is a stupid question Pastor Rob – I have not killed anyone!**

B) Literally I am sure that is true of everyone in this room –

1) But when we consider the standard that Jesus set up –

C) We might have to reconsider our Answer

Matthew 5:21

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. 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. 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.”

Last weekend we began the 2nd section of our series on the Sermon on the Mount - 2nd Section Entitled –

“Shocking Statements of Christ”

A) We decided to give it that name – because the Statements that Jesus made in this section – **Would have shocked His listeners in that day.**

B) **SHOCKED PEOPLE IN OUR DAY!** – Even led some skeptics of Christianity to say: If that is what Christianity is all about I want no part of it!

C) Last week we looked at the first Shocking Statement:

V.20 “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees*, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The reason this was such a shocking statement to those who were listening to Jesus is: The Scribes and Pharisees **were the standard of Righteousness**

A) They had a saying in that day and age that if God **could only let two people into Heaven** – one would be a Scribe and the other would be a Pharisee.

B) That is how highly esteemed the men who held those religious positions were in the eyes of the people.

C) The Problem though with the Scribes and Pharisees is their standard of righteousness was mainly **based on EXTERNAL ACTIONS**

1) **BUT IT completely ignored the heart.**

Cc) Jesus was bringing Righteousness to a **HIGHER LEVEL** –

1) **FOCUS was on the Inward attitudes of the heart**

D) The Religious leaders thought - As long as they were following the Right Rituals, Wearing

the Right clothes, Saying the Right prayers -
GOOD SHAPE!

But Jesus is going to blow peoples minds by revealing that – although a person might look perfect on the Outside.

A) **THERE IS A PROBLEM ON THE INSIDE** – and that is what God sees and **that is what God wants TO FIX!**

B) Ever had a **Watch or a Clock in your house** that didn't keep good time?

1) You adjust the hands – the next day it is five minutes off again.

2) Over and over you adjust the hands – SAME RESULT – 5 min off.

C) **DON'T BLAME THE HANDS** – The problem is not the hands – **THE PROBLEM LIES DEEPER!**

D) That is what Jesus is **REVEALING** in this section of the Sermon on the Mount.

1) He uses 6 commandments from the OT to illustration that the real Problem **lies DEEPER THAN OUTWARD ACTIONS**

First illustration involves Murder:

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.

Sum up Shocking Statement #2 this way - Hatred is the same as Murder!

“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” ~ 1 John 3:15

A) The point that the Apostle John and Jesus are both illustrating **is that Murder is a HEART ISSUE!**

B) The **first recorded crime** that was ever committed on planet earth **was a homicide.** -

Genesis 4:9

1) Cain murdered his brother Abel!

C) Man has been killing other men ever since!

1) According to the United Center for Disease Control Feb 6th 2015 - **There are over 16,000 Homicides in the U.S. every year – Nearly 45 murders per day!**

Many of those murders are what Law Enforcement calls – **Crimes of Passion** – in other words it starts with **ANGER**

A) Shouldn't surprise us – because that was the Case with Cain

B) We read in Genesis 4 – **Cain became Angry !**

1) Cain was Angry because God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's

C) God saw Cain's heart: ⁶ **Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?**

⁷ **If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”**

Sin is crouching at the door – But you should rule over it

A) Cain don't let this Sin of Anger be the master of your life!

B) But in that simple conversation: **The Lord was showing us that Cain's sin didn't start with the MURDER OF HIS BROTHER.**

1) It started long before – **ANGER IN HIS HEART!** –

C) Exactly what Jesus is telling us here in the Sermon on the Mount.

Consider a few things about - Murder according to Jesus

A) **#1 Murder starts with Anger!**

B) Two Greek words for Anger in the NT.

1) **Thumos** – describes a quick outburst – like a match being applied to Hay – instant inferno

C) The other word is **Orge or Orgizo** – describes a slow smoldering or brooding anger that is not allowed to die!

1) **This is the word that Jesus is using here.**

D) That brooding anger in the heart that is not allowed to die! – but instead is nursed.

1) We **nurse this Anger** when we think things like: I deserve to be angry – they really hurt me.

E) I will never forgive them because they don't deserve to be forgiven!

Christian's think they can harbor those thoughts and still be ok with God!

A) **Exactly what the Pharisees believed.**

B) They literally believed that they could harbor bitterness and hatred in their hearts –

1) But if they never actually killed that person – they were totally RIGHT ON in God's eyes.

C) Jesus is blowing up that MENTALITY by telling us **#1 that Hatred is the same as Murder!**

Now that is Shocking to us AS WELL!

A) Reason most of us in this room have wrestled with those feelings of **Anger, Hatred and Bitterness** at least once in our lives.

B) Some of you have been **abused, others betrayed, someone wounded you deeply -**

1) You have wrestled with those feelings of **ANGER & BITTERNESS** in your life

This is what I find to be so encouraging about what Jesus is doing here

A) He is concerned about **OUR HEARTS** – He knows those type of feelings can DESTROY a person.

B) So Jesus is not going to give us **a false sense of assurance** – in letting us think that if we are doing everything right on the OUTSIDE –

C) **WE ARE GOOD!** – He wants us to understand – that God **sees the inside and is most concerned** about OUR HEARTS!

D) So Jesus is getting to the root issue/**HEART ISSUE**

Murder according to Jesus

#1 Anger, Orge or Orgizo – Brooding Anger – is the same as Murder

#2 Anger affects the way I treat and talk to others.

V.22b 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.

A) **Raca** = A term of malicious abuse, derision, and slander, it has been variously rendered as calling someone a

➤ **brainless idiot, worthless fellow, silly fool, empty head, and blockhead.**

B) **Fool = Moros** from which we get our word Moron.

When I get to this point – my anger is affecting the way that I treat people and talk about them.

A) The word Raca was an almost untranslatable word – because it actually referred **to the TONE in which you spoke about a person.**

B) **Is your tone** – negative and condescending when you talk about that person even if you are trying to say the right thing!

C) **The tone betrays – You** – Of course I love them!

1) Doesn't SOUND LIKE IT BRO!

“Anger is such a foolish thing. It makes us destroyers instead of builders. It robs us of freedom and makes us prisoners.” ~Warren Wiersbe

MURDER according to Jesus

#3 Anger affects my relationship with God.

Psalm 66:18 **“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”**

A) It is so easy for us to try and make up for our lack of moral integrity **with RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.**

B) There is compromise in my life – but I am active in Church so I am ok!

1) There **is compromise in my life** – but I am serving and God is using me so it must be OK!

C) But you are not ok – Your worship of God is affected!

1) Intimacy is affected - Closeness with God is affected.

D) That was the result of the first sin – “Naked and Ashamed – they hid themselves from God.”

1) **Sin affects intimacy in marriage** – Sin affects intimacy with God!

E) God doesn't hear my prayers! –

So Because Jesus is concerned the most about our hearts – He is concerned the most about – Our relationship with God

A) He gives us a cure for Anger!

B) **#1 Admit it** – this is not stated in the text but it is implied – Admit there is a problem – Confess it – 1) 1 John 1:9 **Confess our sin – say the same as... own it**

C) **If we Confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

D) This is the only way to have a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees

1) **Imputed Righteousness of Christ** – Our sin was transferred to Him and His **RIGHTEOUSNESS IS** transferred to us.

E) **The first step toward – dealing with my Anger is to OWN IT – CONFESS IT – DAILY { OK today – wake up with Anger tomorrow**

1) **BACK TO POOR IN SPIRIT** –

#2 Cure for Anger- Pursue Reconciliation

A) Jesus gives an interesting illustration here in our text.

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. 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.”

B) **Jesus uses two different analogies – to illustrate the same idea- Make HASTE in pursuing Reconciliation**

C) This first illustration is interesting: He says- Not just your heart – You being Angry.

1) But if you Come to worship – **You Remember you offended someone – (Idea – there is a reason)**

D) **Leave your gift – Go make it right**

1) Point: Being Right with your Brother is more important than your Religious Ritual.

Another analogy: Depicting Haste -

A) They would literally grab a person by the collar – drag them to the Elders – the council – sit in city square.

B) You are being dragged before the judge – the council – **Try and settle the matter before you get there.**

C) Point: Being reconciled and having UNITY IS VERY important to God!

What if someone doesn't want to be reconciled – they don't want to own their part of the problem.

A) Ok – You do your Part – You do what you can do!

Romans 12:18

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

B) Here is what that means: Depends on you – **Own your part of the problem.**

C) Sometimes – you just have to come to a place of saying: **Let's agree to disagree on that issue – Pursue peace.**

1) See it differently – Disagree agreeably.

D) But they just don't want to forgive or they don't **want to admit there is an issue.**

1) **THAT IS BETWEEN THEM AND GOD**
Romans 12:18-21

¹⁸ **If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”**

¹⁹ **Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”** ²⁰ **To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”** ²¹ **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

C) Sometimes – Some people are never going to forgive – they harbor bitterness against you forever – 1) **They won't own their own sin!**

D) But that is their problem – Between them and God

1) **You DO what you CAN** – to show love – let them know – you forgiven them

E) Bitterness might define them – but it doesn't have to **DEFINE YOU!**

“It has well been said that the person who refuses to forgive his brother destroys the very bridge over which he himself must walk.” ~ Wiersbe

E) Your heart – Your walk – Hebrews 12:14,15 ¹⁴ **Pursue peace with all people**, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.”

There is one last thing: I want us to consider before we go today that is really at the heart of everything that Jesus is saying in this 2nd section.

A) **Imago Dei – Issue** - The term Imago Dei speaks to The truth that **MANKIND ALONE** has been created in the image of God

B) Mankind is different from every other created being - **MAN IS** the crown jewel of creation.

Genesis 9:6 **“Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”**

C) **GOD** doesn't say that about killing an animal

TOUGH TIMES: Financially tight – Might consider getting rid of my dog or cat - save on food cost.

A) But I am not going to get rid of my wife or kids even though they cost me 10x what the dog or cat does. – Why?

B) We Value human life above everything else – God intended –

1) Man alone was made in the image of God.

C) If my dog is old and having a hard time getting around – I might take her to the Vet and have her put down.

1) Live in Texas or AZ – do it myself

D) But I am not going to do that to my mom or Dad - Intrinsic Value

1) Mankind is to be Valued above the rest of Creation – Created in the Image of God.

Man is uniquely designed to live in RELATIONSHIP

A) Relationship WITH GOD/ RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

B) Murder, lust and evil speaking are Imago Dei issues.

1) We devalue man that was made in the image of God.

It was Mankind alone that God so Loved – led Him to give His only Son

A) That love for Man – created in His image – Led Jesus to willingly leave heaven to purchase you as His Bride –

B) We speak evil about our Brothers and Sisters – We are speaking evil – **we are murdering the BRIDE OF CHRIST**

1) **SINNING AGAINST CHRIST**

C) We need to Remember that!

D) Sin lying at the Door – Rule you?

1) Throw in the Cross – Jesus died