**The Inside Out**, **Kingdom of God: The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5-7**

***Upside Down***

**Matthew 5:21-26**

**The Six Up Incoming Topics:** ***Anger***– Lust – Divorce – Oaths – Retaliation – Loving Ones Enemies

* **Last Times Main Point:** Jesus’ teaching about fulfilling the law shows that he seeks setting a standard that looks at the law from ***an internal, not an external, perspective***.

**The Main Focus:**

* The issue is not a set of rules, but rather a response from within. A response that is not self- produced but is a reflection of a faith that trusts and follows in God’s way.

**Anger:** The issue is not murder but *anger*.

**Ex. 20:13: & Deut. 5:17**

**13**You shall not murder.

**This Big Issue:**

* The Pharisees and scribes were often guilty of *reducing the meaning* and *even the demands of the law*, and this is a perfect example or illustration of that here.

**V. 21** - ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

**They Added Something:**

* The first issue is that the Pharisees, by putting these two things together in juxtaposition, had reduced the importance of this commandment “You shall not murder” to just a question of committing actual murder.By adding the second part to the first original command, they had weakened the whole command itself.
* Secondly, they reduced and confined the sanctions of this commandment to mere punishment at the hands of the civil magistrates or courts. When they said judgement here it meant by the local courts. They had reduced this command to something purely legal. *There was no mention of God or the judgement of God at all.*

**Examples: The Apostle Paul & The Rich Young Ruler:**

**Phil. 3:6: Paul**

**5**circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church (Gal. 1:13-14); as to righteousness under the law,blameless.

* Paul genuinely believed, before his conversion, that he had kept the law perfectly. He had observed the law’s requirements of the OT, through his Pharisaic lines or Pharisaic lens, and had become blameless.

**Luke 18:20-21: Rich Young Ruler**

**20**You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” **21**And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.”

**Important Sermon Point**: As long as you and I accept the letter, and forget the whole spirit, content and meaning, *we may persuade ourselves that we are perfectly righteous* face-to-face with the law.

**Important Principle:** *What matters is not merely the letter of the law but the spirit.*

**This Commandment Includes Beyond Physical Murder:** *causeless anger* in our hearts against another, feeling of *hostility or hate* in our hearts, feelings of *bitterness,* or to have *unkind and unpleasant feelings of resentment* towards people without a cause is murder.

* Furthermore, we must not be guilty of expressions of dislike. Such us *insulting another person* we have anger towards.

**Why Insults are so Damaging:**

* Out of insults what happens: we can ruin others *reputations*, we can give people a *false impression of a person*, we can *destroy a person’s confidence* because of the things we say to others about them or what we say to them.

**Application:** We must pay attention to our Anger!

* What gets you angry, what keeps you angry? This ultimately shows you something about your heart.
* It isn’t a problem to be angry (necessarily), but *are you angry about something that God is angry about is the important question*?

**Second, Important Principle**: *Our attitude is to be not negative, but positive*.

* Unchecked anger often leads to bitterness. Bitterness becomes so much harder to deal with, and usually affects many others close to us or around us. Thus, this leads us to our next principle.

**Third, Important Principle**: *We are to act upon our sin of anger with urgency because of the effect it has on the person, on us, but most importantly on our very relationship to God.*

**Ponder this Point:** Worshiping is a top priority to God, and yet he says reconciliation is so important that it is to be put on hold, because true worship takes place when accounts with others are clean.

* The laws intent is to be relational. God stresses genuine and healthy community.

**Matt. 5:9:** “Blessed are the *peacemakers*, for they shall be called sons of God.”

**The Call to Reconciliation**: **Rom. 12:18**: “So Far as it Depends on You:”

1. We are only responsible for what others hold against us when it is owing to real sin or blundering on our part.
2. If we are responsible, then have we taken the proper steps to try and be reconciled?
3. We are responsible to pursue reconciliation, but live with the pain if it does not succeed. In other words, we are not responsible to make reconciliation happen.