

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

2. LifeJournal

As we continue to move together as a church in His Word, last Sunday we were in Mt.13:1-23. Share your SOAP application or prayer with your group. *Next week, pay special attention to Mt. 15:21-39 as we will be discussing this passage together.

3. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

This week, our message was from Matthew 5:21-26. Read the passage and dive into the questions below.

Matthew 5:21-26 (NIV)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,'¹ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

1. Jesus starts the conversation by talking about murder but He points to something deeper instead. In verses 21-22, Jesus groups murder and unrighteous anger in the same category. How are they related? Why do you think Jesus does this?
2. Although we are deeply loved by God, we were also considered "children of wrath" (Eph 2:3). That means God was angry with us. And Paul tells us it is possible to be angry and not sin (Eph 4:26). Then, what kind of anger (v.22) do you think Jesus is referring to here? What does this kind of anger look like today?

¹ Raca (Ῥακά) is an Aramaic word meaning "empty" or "stupid".

3. In verse 22, Jesus is heavily concerned about **outbursts** ('Raca" and 'You fool'). Can you describe a time when words were hurtful to you or to someone else?
4. In verses 23-24, we see someone **hold in** their anger and worship but why does Jesus want us to address the anger before worship?
5. In verse 25, Jesus is concerned that **reconciliation** happen quickly. What does Jesus teach us about broken relationships?
6. Jesus is most concerned about our response. Why do you think this is the case?

4. Apply: Next Faithful Step

God teaches us how to live this life through his son Jesus. He did not just give us outbursts of anger, or hold in his anger, but He reconciled us to Him through Jesus. Though we have trespassed against God, He ran towards us out of love to work it out. And through Christ's work, He entrusted to us the work of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-19).

1. Reconciliation is truly a hard task, but it is something we are called towards. Is there a person in your life that you are angry with or that you feel is angry with you? What would it look like for you to go and seek reconciliation as best as you are able (Rom 12:18)? Pray with a group member about this situation.

5. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.

