

September 30, 2018

**Foolish Anger**  
**Matthew 5:21-26**  
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## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 “Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.”

In this weeks' passage we see Jesus' first of six references to the Old Testament Law in the sermon on the mount. The Old Testament Law tells us not to murder. In this passage Jesus seems to take it to the next level and says don't even be angry with your brother. This seems like an impossible task. Is there any way that we can completely avoid being angry? Is Jesus asking us to completely avoid being angry? Jesus is starting to teach that the Law is not just about the things that we do but about the condition of our heart. Join us this week as we talk about how we can be a reflection of Jesus by living by the spirit of the law not the letter of the law.



## Matthew 5:21-26 (NIV)

### Murder

<sup>21</sup>“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.’ <sup>22</sup>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,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something

against you,<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

### 🕯 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. Is being angry as bad as murder?

9. How do we reconcile the danger of hell in verse 22 with grace?

10. What is the point of the passage when it talks about reconciling before making an offering?

11. How does settling matters quickly effect our pursuit of what is right?

12. Is Jesus changing the law about not murdering by expanding it to include anger?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Are there times when it is ok to be angry?

14. What is the overarching idea Jesus is getting at when it comes to anger?

15. What can we do to keep ourselves from having the anger talked about in this passage?

16. What are some things that cause you to be angry? How can you overcome the anger?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES