

Sovereign Grace Church
“I'm Getting ANGRY!” outline
June 17, 2018

Matthew 5: 21-26

The sixth commandment is one most of us think we have kept. And to be perfectly honest...most of us have kept it....at least as a negative command. But we must remember that the commandments are taught in Scripture as having two sides: the positive (doing good) and the negative (not doing harm). If not murdering someone is to not harm them, does it also include a positive affirmation to do them good?! We can choose to not murder someone that we harbor no love for. But this is no protection of the possibility! Jesus seems to indicate that the road to murder is paved with a depersonalization of the intended object of the murder.

Jesus' teaching on the sixth commandment in Matthew five searches the internal motivation which can result in an act of murder. We will find that to internally guard ourselves from the possibility of murder requires us to cultivate, with God's grace, a different disposition in our relationships. When our wills are crossed by another's will we naturally feel angry. What we do with that anger will broadcast to the world the kind of person we really are. Jesus' mandate for His disciples is not, not to sin...but to become the kind of person who wouldn't even think of sinning, because the desire for it is just not in them. Such an impossible standard is made possible by the ministry of God's Spirit working within our own spirits “to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Phil. 2:13) This morning we will reflect on Jesus' teaching on anger management as a means to a greater righteousness....a righteousness worthy of life in His Kingdom.

1. Anger control vv. 21-22

Ex. 21:12

- **Anger! v. 22a**
Eph. 4: 26

- **Raca! v. 22b**

- **Fool! v. 22c**
Prov. 14:6; 18:2; 26:11

2. Illustration 1: Rites and Relationships vv. 23-24
Mark 11: 25; Hos 6:6

3. Illustration 2: Adversaries at Law vv. 25-26
Psm 23

4. Lessons
Jms 4:1; Rom. 6: 11-14

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Have you ever murdered someone? Do you feel pretty good about that? Do you think you COULD murder someone given the right circumstances? If you answered yes, does that make you a righteous person? If you answered no does that necessarily make you unrighteous? Why do we tend to think that if we're honest about our sinful proclivities it makes it somehow less bad?!**
- 2. Do you struggle with anger? Contempt? What sort of persons do you find yourself being contemptuous towards? How can we work at correcting this habituated thinking? Do you think some persons are worthy of contempt? Why? Does God think you are worthy of contempt? Does He hold you in contempt?**
- 3. Do you understand the tendency for our emotions and desires to control us? Do you understand what “embodied sin” means? How can we displace our desires/emotions from the control center of our lives and begin to utilize them as the tools that God intended? What desire needs to be supreme in order for our other desires to be brought under righteous control?**
- 4. Do you think that you are just “stuck” with being the sort of person you are? Do you believe that real growth in righteousness is possible this side of Heaven? Do you think that Paul's self-description in Romans 7 was something he just resolved to live with? Or do you think it was merely a description of a mentality that he found it necessary to work through in order to become truly Christ-like? Why does this make a difference in our own efforts at pursuing righteousness?**