



The Sermon on the Mount / Week 5

Matthew 5:21-26 ESV

All (sinful) anger has its roots in pride or self-righteousness. RT Kendell

- How does Jesus define righteousness in the Sermon on the Mount? Have you ever considered that our righteousness before God is rooted in Christ fulfilling the Law in our place (Matthew 5:17, Romans 3:21-22)? So what is the righteousness that Jesus is requiring of us?
- What significance is in the statement, "You have heard it said, but I say..."? Jesus said this six different times in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Who or what is it that angers you the most? Will you commit to submit your heart to God in this area?
- Can you identify a time in your life when your anger has progressed as Jesus describes in this passage, from anger in the heart, to insults, to cursing your brother or sister? Perhaps it manifested itself in pride, being critical, bitterness, being withdrawn, or self-righteousness toward others. What was the result of this?
- When have you pushed someone away as a result of un-forgiveness and unresolved anger? Has this happened to you? Remember the character of God in these areas, that he freely forgives you as you come to him in repentance and faith (Ephesians 4:32).
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- How do you view anger differently now as a result of this passage and the message? Have you seen more clearly how Christ views the absolute dangers of anger?
- Have you identified someone that you need to initiate reconciliation with this week, even before you come to worship next week? Remember this conviction is a gift of the Holy Spirit.