

Murder

Read: Matthew 5:21-16

Summary:

Whilst teaching his disciples, Jesus instructed them that the law will not disappear and that the righteousness of his disciples must be greater than that of the Pharisees and Scribes. Matthew records 6 examples of how this radical gospel should make a difference in the believer's life.

Do not murder Most would say this is one of the easiest commandments not to break however Jesus significantly raises the bar: Jesus goes beyond the literal application to the principle. If we are angry that is cause for judgement. (We know that anger is not always wrong: Jesus was angry) Man can only look at the outward appearance whereas God looks at the heart so He will judge us on our thoughts and motives as well as our actions and behaviour.

Gift at the Altar The Altar in the Temple at Jerusalem was where the people made peace with God. Sacrifices were given to cover then sins of those who were repentant. Jesus said not to bother worshipping God unless you are right with your brother. This is a very similar theme to the whole Bible where the prophets kept urging the people don't go through the motions with God, live right lives!

Out of Court Jesus is challenging his disciples that they should not just seek to ensure they have a good relationship with their 'brother' but even to quickly resolve a situation with an 'adversary' If relationship are not good deal with it TODAY. In Ephesians Paul warns us not to let the sun go down on our anger.

Application:

Please select from the following. Encourage all to take part and to be honest; in what ways are people to change as a result of the word? Make sure there is time to pray for one another.

1. Was anything said that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. What makes you angry? How do you behave as a result?
4. How does it make you feel knowing that God is looking at your heart? What can you do to improve your attitude and motives?
5. Is there someone that you need to make peace with? Do it this week and share next time how it went.
6. Is there a difference between 'judgement' and the 'consequences of our actions'? How do you feel knowing that God judges?