

# **MURDER AND MADNESS**

## **Matthew 5:21-26**

**We must adopt Christ's attitude about anger**

### **I. ANCIENT'S TEACHING ABOUT MURDER** (21)

#### **A. WHAT WAS HEARD**

- The letter of the Law based on Exodus 20:13 and Genesis 9:6

#### **B. WHAT WASN'T HEARD**

- The heart issues were not addressed

### **II. CHRIST'S TEACHING ABOUT ANGER** (22)

#### **A. ANGER IS SERIOUS**

##### **1. Brooding**

- a. A cherished or nurtured resentment
- b. Holding a grudge ... seeking revenge
- c. A root of bitterness - See Heb. 12:15
- d. An unrighteous act - James 1:20

##### **2. Name-calling ("raca")**

- a. A contemptuous tone of voice
- b. To spit upon
- c. Calling them stupid, idiot or empty-headed
- d. Indicating an arrogant snobbery - Psalm 140:3 and James 2:1-7

##### **3. Character assassination ("fool")**

- a. A slanderous attack on another's name or reputation
- b. Implying another's immorality
- c. Indicating a spiritual deficiency by calling them a rebel or apostate

#### **B. ANGER BRINGS GUILT**

- The more heinous the conduct the more heightened the consequences

### III. **CHRIST'S TEACHING ABOUT RECONCILIATION** (23-26)

#### A. ACT IMMEDIATELY (23-24)

1. The Occasion (23)
  - a. Bringing a free-will gift to the altar
  - b. Remembering that your brother has something against you
2. The Obligation (24)
  - a. Leave ... go ... be reconciled
  - b. First be reconciled, then offer your gift
  - c. Unresolved conflict must be dealt with - See Psalm 66:18

#### B. SETTLE QUICKLY (25-26)

1. Be Honest: You have an opponent
2. Be Amenable: Make him your friend
3. Be Urgent: Because bitterness breeds bitterness
4. Be Motivated: Because merciless judgment is at hand

### IV. **CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES**

#### A. DON'T DEVELOP HOSTILITY (22)

#### B. DON'T LET ISSUES GO UNRESOLVED (23-24)

#### C. HUMBLY MAKE THINGS RIGHT (25-26)

**CONCLUSION: To be truly righteous, we must avoid all sinful anger**