

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 3 Issue 38



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

Hard Sayings of Jesus "Make it Right" (Mt. 5:21-26) Sermon by Calvin Brown September 16, 2018

Pastor Calvin continued our series in Matthew 5 titled "Hard Sayings of Jesus." Keep in mind that when we talk about Jesus' hard sayings, we mean two things. First of all, some of the things that Jesus said are hard to understand, or interpret. We have to take great care in developing our understanding of what he meant. But second, the hard sayings of Jesus can be difficult to apply. They should cause anyone who is honestly seeking after Jesus to evaluate themselves – if not squirm!

Calvin started his message by tying in the verses that Trent had preached on the previous week in order to provide context. He pointed out that the world seems to be becoming more and more a culture of "isms." Racism says your skin color makes you less than another. Sexism says your gender makes you less than another. Classism says your socio-economic status makes you less than another. Patriotism says your nationality makes less than another. These isms contribute to, or perhaps reflect, the classification and eventual devaluing of some human lives. It has also created a rage in the hearts of many people. People seem to be just plain angry! This anger manifests itself in many forms and produces much bad fruit, including broken relationships. Avoiding this pitfall, Calvin stated, and correcting it if one has fallen into it, is the focus of this week's sermon.

First, in verse 21, Jesus teaches us to respect every life. You should not commit murder because every life is precious and bears the image of God. Second, in verse 22, Jesus warns against harboring the attitude or emotion that can lead to murder, which is anger. Anger starts in the heart, which is where Jesus wants us to deal with it properly. If not, we can find ourselves murdering someone, literally. However, literal murder is less likely in most cases. But Jesus raises the bar and says that that emotion is akin to murder in God's eyes. Anger kills; if not literally, it kills relationships and fellowship with God and our fellow man. In verses 23-26 Jesus illustrates the importance and urgency of reconciliation if we find ourselves guilty of anger and the fruit of it, namely a broken relationship. He says our worship of God is flawed when we are guilty of having broken our relationship with our brother/sister due to our anger. He says go and fix it... make it right! Jesus takes his teaching on reconciliation as a step further by teaching that we must make it right with even our adversaries because anger (much accurately the fruit of anger) can leave us in a bad place relationally, even legally!

Respect every life. Control your anger. If you lose control and it causes a break in relationship with someone, then make it right!

E CHECK: Experiencing Christ-Like Relationships

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Matthew 5:21-26. How does Jesus' teaching challenge the status quo?

Read Psalm 139:13-18. What does this passage teach about each individual? How does that relate to Jesus' teaching on anger?

Read Romans 12:17-19. What does this passage teach about relating to others? What is the responsibility of each believer?

Read 1 Samuel 15. What does Samuel say to Saul about the relationship between obedience and worship? What does Samuel call disobedience (v. 23)? What does he liken it to? How does this relate to Jesus' teaching on bringing a gift to the altar?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What makes you angry? What do you do when this happens?

Who makes you angry? What do you do when this happens?

Do you have any broken relationships because of how you responded in anger? Homework: Confess. Repent. Do your best to reconcile.

Read James 1:19-21. How can that passage help you deal with anger and avoid sinning and breaking relationships?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

In your family or small group time this week, talk about anger and how it can impact relationships. Read the passage together and identify the "hard sayings" in these verses (there are at least 4). Discuss what makes them hard. Have each person identify something in their life that needs to be repented of.

KEY POINT:

Mend relationships when your anger gets the best of you. Make it right!

RESOURCES:

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

Become a part of one or more of the various Bible studies and small groups at Destiny Church.

[Transformed Into His Likeness](#) by Armand Tiffe

[How to Handle Anger](#) by Lou Priolo