

Life Group /Reflection Questions

Why did Christ say that “anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin?” What did He mean? How might He make that same point to us today?

Discuss why keeping the sixth commandment involves more than not committing murder. How can mudslinging merit the same punishment as murder? Does this seem fair?

Is anger in our daily lives always wrong? Explain the difference between the examples we read of Jesus’ anger and the anger He is confronting in us.

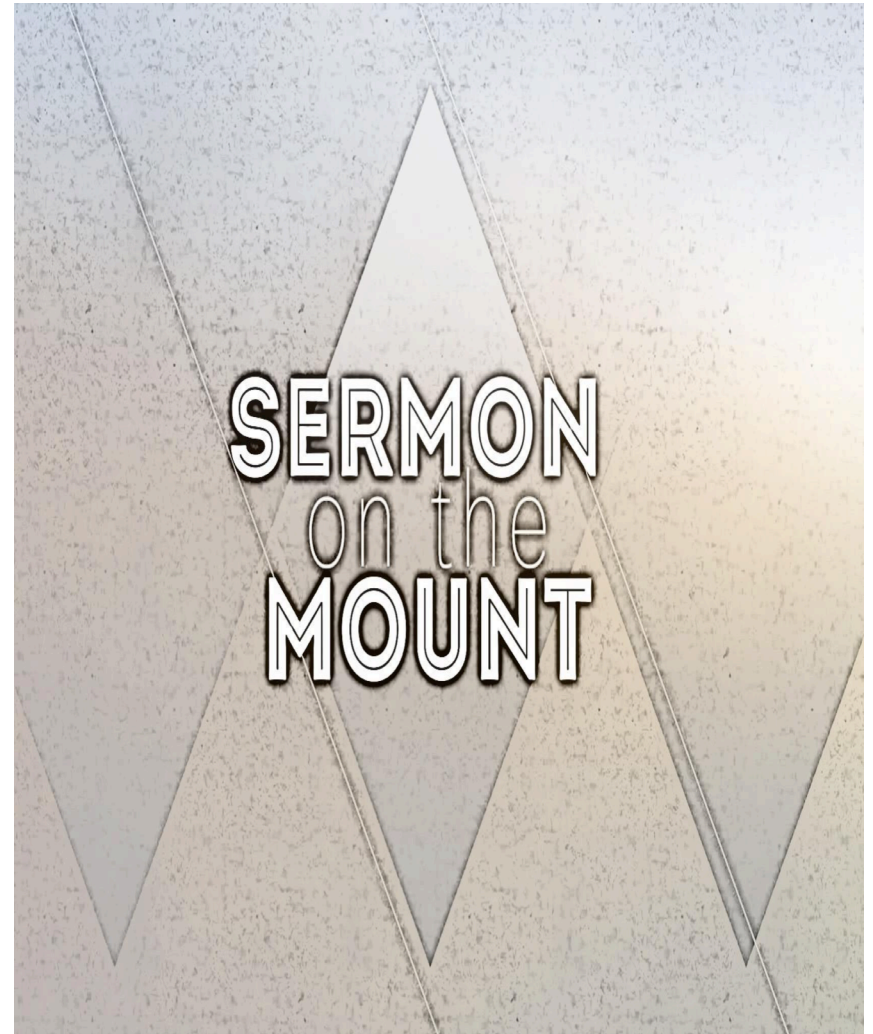
Do you experience more righteous anger or unrighteous anger in your life? How do you know the difference?

How could Christ go through the abuse that led Him to the cross and remain without anger? What do you think you would have done under the same circumstances?

While Christ calls us to reconciliation, it isn’t as easy as it sounds. What needs to happen in our lives before we can reconcile with others?

How important are the Beatitudes to this process?

Is there someone with whom you have had a difference or dispute? What steps should you take right now to get that matter settled?



Out of Control

Matthew 5:20-26

May 17, 2015

Wave Church SD

Series – Sermon on the Mount
“Out of Control”

²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20, NIV)

The Pharisee Problem

Pharisees obeyed the letter of the law for pride

But the spirit of their hearts was **EVIL/REBELLIOUS**

We are to keep the Law **IN THE HEART**

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ (Matthew 5:21, NIV)

A law teaches **WHAT IS IMPORTANT**

A judgment teaches **HOW IMPORTANT** it is

The Problem of Anger

²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. (Matthew 5:22-23, NIV)

Raca attacked a person’s **MENTAL ABILITY**

Fool assaulted a person’s **MORAL INTEGRITY**

God judges our righteousness on **THE INSIDE**

What about “righteous anger” in Matthew 23:13-33?

Righteous anger leads to **REFORM**

What to do when anger becomes personal?

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. (Matthew 5:23-26, NIV)

1. **ACT QUICKLY**

2. Don’t cover up an **OFFENSE** with **GOOD DEEDS**

3. Do the righteous thing – **RECONCILIATION**

Righteousness is dealing with what we know is wrong.

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18, NIV)

4. Control the pattern of your **HEART RESPONSE**

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:17-20, NIV)