

## Sunday Morning Message

August 18, 2018

Amplifications of the Law - Anger

Text – Matthew 5:17 - 26

Congregational Reading – Matthew 5:17 - 20

### Introduction

Read Matthew 5:17 – 20

This morning, we are continuing our examination of the famous message that Jesus preached called *The Sermon on the Mount*. This message contains quite a few of the very familiar teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this sermon, Jesus speaks about the Kingdom, which Christ will set up some day here on the earth. Sometimes, we refer to the Kingdom as the Millennial reign of Christ, or the Millennium, because it will last for 1000 years. Christ will literally rule and reign on the earth during this period of time, and Jerusalem will be the Capitol of the World.

The principles found in the Sermon on the Mount and in other similar messages in the gospels will be the rule of law during the Millennium. However, these principles also should apply today to those of us who are the children of God; to those who have been saved. We who are saved have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling inside of us, and the Spirit of God within us is working, transforming us and re-creating us into the very image of Christ.

You will notice as we study this message that the principles contained in it go far beyond the Old Testament Law. Here in this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus amplifies the Law. He explains that His expectations are not that the Law be followed just according to specific external applications, but that Christians should seek to understand and exemplify the spirit of the Law. This section will cause us to look within ourselves at a much deeper level. We will be forced to peer into our own hearts in order to see where the conflict between God's standard and human behavior begins. It's a heart problem. What Jesus is teaching in this section of the Sermon on the Mount is that Christians should have an internal conformity to the spirit of the Law rather than just an external observance of the letter of the Law.

In the remaining portion of this fifth chapter of Matthew, Jesus will deal with how the Old Testament Law relates the Spirit-filled Christian. What are we supposed to do with the Law? Many Christians today are completely forsaking the moral aspects of the Law, claiming that they are free to do whatever they please because they are under grace. Thank God for God's mercy that forgives us and keeps us from receiving the judgement that we deserve. Thank God for His grace, which will eventually bring us into Heave, which we certainly do not deserve. But God's grace is not a license to do whatever we please. Quite the contrary:

*"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and*

*our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."* (Titus 2:11-14)

In the remainder verses of chapter five, there are six amplifications (or magnifications, or expansions) of Old Testament commandments given. Before we get started, I am warning you: you have probably already blown it many times in many of these areas, if not all of them. God is not trying to heap guilt upon for what was done yesterday. He is trying to cause us to see the depth (the root) of our sin problem, and help us, through His power, better live out His principles in front of a fallen world.

- I. Amplification # 1 Anger – Matthew 5:21 – 26
- II. Amplification #2 Adultery – Matthew 5:27 – 30
- III. Amplification #3 Divorce – Matthew 5:31 – 32
- IV. Amplification #4 Oaths – Matthew 5:33 – 37
- V. Amplification #5 Judgment – Matthew 5:38 – 42
- VI. Amplification #6 Love – Matthew 5:44 – 48

### **Amplification # 1 - Anger**

This morning, we are going to examine the first one - anger.

Anger is an emotion that is not necessarily sinful, but if your anger is not properly processed, it will lead to harsh words, bitterness, and actions; all of which are sinful. What Christ is teaching here is anger that is out of control; anger that has become wrath. Wrath is anger that is revealed in sinful ways.

Read Matthew 5:21 – 26

*"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:"* (Matthew 5:21)

*"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca (meaning "empty-headed"), shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."*  
(Matthew 5:22)

Anger is very often the root of murder. The act of murder many times begins with the emotion of anger. Murder was punishable by death in the Old Testament. There were different punishments for murder meted out for different cases. Sometimes murderers were stoned according to the judgement. Sometimes the council (or Sanhedrin) punished by beheading, and in severe cases, murderers were burnt in the valley of Hinnom, where the garbage of Jerusalem was burnt. This place was often used symbolically as a reference to eternal judgment.

What Jesus is saying here is that murder begins in the heart, and is often preceded by words. In our world today, we see a lot of people spewing out horrible words, which reveals the hatred that is on the inside.

The letter of the Law says not to physically hurt or murder. The spirit behind the Law teaches us to deal with the anger on the inside, and stop thinking or speaking harm toward our neighbors.

Jesus next speaks about conflicts and bitterness that is prevalent in our relationships:

*"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (Matthew 5:23 - 24)*

Jesus is clearly saying here that conflicts and bitterness, even at the heart level, will negatively affect our relationship with Him. We cannot be right in our relationship with God if we are not right in our relationships with our brothers and sisters.

*"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing." (Matthew 5:25 - 26)*

Jesus is teaching something very practical here. If we do not deal with our anger and bitterness toward our brothers and sisters, it will adversely affect our position within the community.

We are supposed to be ambassadors for Christ. We are supposed to be salt and light. How can we do that, if we are in jail because of some unresolved conflict that we have with a brother.

Anger is an emotion that can lead to bitterness and bad behavior. It needs to be dealt with at the root level.

## **I Bible Samples of Anger – Genesis 4:1 – 5; Luke 15:11 – 32**

In both of these examples anger came about as a result of jealousy. In each of these cases the elder brother did not like the attention given to the younger brother. They felt like they were being somehow cheated out of what they thought they deserved.

Other examples – Simeon and Levi with Shechem; Moses regarding the water; Judas when the woman poured the ointment on the feet of Jesus; Haman with Mordecai.

## **II Bible Selections that Deal with Anger**

*Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. (Psalm 37:8)*

*He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated. (Proverbs 14:17)*

*He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. (Proverbs 14:29)*

*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)*

*A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife. (Proverbs 15:18)*

*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. (Proverbs 16:32)*

*A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.*  
(Proverbs 19:19)

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. (Proverbs 21:19)

*An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.* (Proverbs 29:22)

*Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.* (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* (Romans 12:19)

*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:* (Ephesians 4:26)

*But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.* (Colossians 3:8)

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.* (James 1:19-20)

### III Biblical Solutions for Anger

A Walk in the Spirit – Galatians 5:19 – 26

- 1 Get in the Bible “Great peace”
- 2 Pray about your anger (Fast)
- 3 Get Counsel
- 4 Seek ways to be a blessing to others

B Know what ticks you off (your “hot buttons”)

As much as possible try to avoid some things that you know will upset you.

C Take a hard, realistic look at yourself and you won’t be so hard on others.

D Realize that it just isn’t worth it.

E Know that God knows

F Learn to control your anger

- 1 Choose when you will be angry and for what reasons.
- 2 Never let your anger cause you to sin.
- 3 Display only as much anger as is necessary