

I. Introduction and Review: Jesus Lays Down the Law. v. 21-48**A. Jesus Corrects the Abuses of the Law by the Scribes and Pharisees. v. 20, 43****B. Jesus Speaks with Authority. 7:28-29**

1. His Authority Surpasses that of the Teachers of the Jews. Mark 1:22
2. He Proclaims the True Meaning of the Law of Moses.
3. His Authority and Teaching Surpass that of Moses. John 1:17
 - a. Jesus is the Authoritative Expounder of God's Will for God's People.
 - b. Is the Mosaic Law the Supreme Declaration of God's Moral Law?

C. He Expands Our Understanding of the Law of God. (Lloyd-Jones)

1. The Law Goes Beyond the Letter and also Includes the Spirit.
2. The Law Goes Beyond Actions and Includes the Heart. 15:19 I Sam. 16:7 Lk. 16:15
3. The Law is not Merely Negative Preventing Sin, but is also Positive Commanding the Virtues Promoting Righteousness.
4. The Law is not an End of itself but a Means to Know and Glorify God.
5. The Law is not Oppressive and Constraining, but it is a Blessing Bringing Freedom to God's People. I Jn 5:3 Ps. 19:7-14 119:70-72

II. Are You a Murderer?**A. Murder Goes Beyond the Act. v. 21**

1. The Pharisees Were Right to Condemn the Deed of Murder. Gen. 9:6
 - a. Not all killing is murder, but only the unjust taking of human life. Gen. 4:8
 - b. The death penalty is imposed because murderers have attacked the image of God.
2. The Jews Erred by Limiting the Sixth Commandment to One Outward Act and its Civil Penalty.

B. You Can Commit Murder Without Shedding Blood. v. 22 John 8:44

1. Mental Murder: Anger and Hatred. I Jn. 3:15 Js. 4:2 Pr. 14:17 22:24 Ecc. 7:9
2. Verbal Murder. 12:34 Lev. 20:9 Js. 3:1-12
3. Other Kinds of Murder.
 - a. Physical harm.
 - b. Economic or legal oppression. James 5:6 2:13
 - c. Racial prejudice.
 - d. Even a look can kill.

C. Such Hate Crimes Deserve God's Justice.

1. Jesus is not Saying that the State is Authorized to Punish Words and Thoughts.
2. God, Who Knows the Heart, Will Bring Justice: Everlasting Wrath. 12:36 Js. 2:13 Jesus Believes in Hell!

III. Repent of Your Murderous Anger.**A. Don't Make Excuses.**

1. *My Anger is Righteous Anger (Like Jesus).* Eph. 4:26
 - a. Jesus in His office as Messiah expresses God's Holy Judicial hatred of sin. 21:12f 23:17 Jn. 2:14-17 Ps. 7:11 97:10 Mark 3:5
 - b. Righteous anger is a zeal for God's honor, not self interest.
 - c. The best sin to be angry with is your own. Js. 4:1ff
 - d. Jesus patiently suffered wrongs against Himself. I Pet. 2:23 Lk. 23:34
2. *I was Provoked. I Couldn't Help Myself!*
 - a. You are Still Responsible for Your Thoughts, Words, and Deeds.
 - b. Circumstances simply reveal what is already in the heart.
 - c. God Will not Tempt You beyond What you are Able. I Cor. 10:13
3. *That's Just the Way I am. I have a Short Fuse.*
4. *I was Simply Exercising My Authority.* Authority Does not Give License to Verbal or Physical Abuse. (Government, Family, Church, Work)

5. *I'm Just Being Honest About My Thoughts and Feelings.*
 - a. Some feelings are sinful: hatred.
 - b. Some thoughts best remain unspoken and repented of.
6. *I'm not Angry. I'm Hurt, Bothered, Upset, Offended, Annoyed, Irritated, Resentful, Disturbed, Frustrated, and Ticked Off.* Heb. 3:13

B. In Christ, You Can Conquer Sinful Anger. II Cor. 5:17 Phil. 4:13 Co. 3:8

Js. 1:19-20 Ps. 37:8 Pr. 15:18 16:32 25:28

1. Recognize that You are Dealing with Dangerous Sin. Eph. 4:26-27 Js. 3:1ff
2. Don't Seek Revenge. Rom. 12:17-21 Gen. 50:19
3. Don't Vent Your Emotions. Gal. 5:23
4. Don't Just Hold it All in. Eph. 4:26
5. But Entrust Your Situation to God. 6:12 18:21ff I Pet. 2:23-24 Eph. 4:26-27,32

IV. Seek Harmonious Relationships with Your Adversaries. v. 23-26

A. Jesus Pronounces the Positive Claim of the Sixth Commandment.

B. Personal Reconciliation Must take Place Before You Can Worship. v. 23-24

1. Jesus' Example of Sacrifice Illustrates How the Old Covenant Truths Can be Applied Under the New Covenant. Heb. 13:10,15-16 II Cor. 6:16 Eph. 2:21
2. Some Try to Use Religious Ritual to Cover-up Their Sins. I Sam. 15:15
3. God Will Not Accept Such Sham Worship. I Sam. 15:22 I John 4:20 Isa. 1:15 58:4 Jer. 7:8-11 Amos 5:21-24 Mic. 6:6-8 Ps. 24:3-4 66:18
4. Postpone Sacrifice, Rather than Postponing Reconciliation. I Pet. 3:7 I Cor. 13:3
5. In Which Cases Must I Do This?
 - a. What if it is not a major issue? I Pet. 4:8
 - b. What if I am not at fault? Prov. 16:2
 - c. What if he will not reconcile? Rom. 12:18
6. Are You Ready to Worship Today? Will You be Tonight? I Cor. 11:27-29

C. Deal With Your Wrongs Against Others as Quickly as Possible. v. 25-26

1. Confess Your Fault.
2. Where Appropriate, Make Restitution. Luke 19:8
3. Act Before it is Too Late. Eph. 4:26 Heb. 12:14-15

V. Concluding Applications.

- A. You are a Murderer Under a Sentence of Condemnation. v. 22 Rev. 22:15 Rom. 6:23
- B. You Are, by Nature God's Enemy.
- C. God Offers a Way of Reconciliation. Rom. 5:8-11
- D. The Time for Reconciliation is Now! II Cor. 5:20