

- *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’
22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.” Mt. 5:21-23*

You Have Heard ... But I Say ...

- 1. 5:21-26 Murder & Anger
- 2. 5:27-30 Adultery & Lust
- 3. 5:31-32 Reasons for Divorce
- 4. 5:33-37 Taking Oaths
- 5. 5:38-42 Vengeance
- 6. 5:43-48 Love & Hate
- Each of these offers a loose submission that men find comfortable and the true intent of the law as God gave it and Jesus now demands.

God's Intent – Man's Interpretation

- You have heard ... But I say...
- Jesus puts things back where they belong.
- Many commands can be understood loosely or strictly.
- It is important we not turn to the right or left.
- We don't want to bind where God loosed.
- We don't want to loose where God bound.
- God is intensely interested in the amount of time we take to be certain we get each command right. Our eternal destiny is here.

We Can't Ignore These Words

- *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matt 7:24-27*

Raises Bar of Repent and Confess

- *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 2 Cor 7:10-12*
- *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9-10*

If Hearing and Doing ...

- Now the godly sorrow reserved for murder will be felt with anger and derisive words.
- Now the confession that was reserved only for murder will be offered for anger and derisive words.
- Have we accepted these conditions?
- Do we truly repent and confess over each time we feel anger or use derisive words?
- Are we building on the rock or on the sand?

What is Anger?

- There are two words the Holy Spirit used to describe the emotion of anger.
- One is used of the quick burst of temper that happens when things don't go our way.
- It arises quickly and then subsides.
- The other is the emotion that grows over time as events build a dislike into open animosity and a desire to harm that doesn't subside.
- Both are sinful, but it is helpful in some places to see this distinction.

Two Words for Anger

- “*orge*,... (fr *orgao* to teem, denoting an internal motion, esp that of plants and fruits swelling with juice... any violent emotion, but esp. (and chiefly in Attic) anger. ... ” (Thayer, p. 452; 3709)
- “*thumos*,... In the N.T. 1. *passion, angry heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again*, (*orge* on the other hand, denotes indignation which has arisen gradually and become more settled;...” (Thayer, p. 293; 2372)

Two words for Anger

- Notes: (1) *thumos*, “wrath” (not translated “anger”), is to be distinguished from *orge*, in this respect, that *thumos* indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation, while *orge* suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge. *Orge* is less sudden in its rise than *thumos*, but more lasting in its nature. *thumos* expresses more the inward feeling, *orge* the more active emotion. Trench Synonyms of the NT

God's Wrath

- *For the wrath (orge) of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, Rom 1:18-19*
- *But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath (orge) in the day of wrath (orge) and revelation of the righteous judgment of God Rom 2:5*
- *for the wrath (orge) of man does not produce the righteousness of God. James 1:20*

Our Wrath and Anger Forbidden

- *Be angry (orgizo), and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath(par-orgismos), 27 nor give place to the devil. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath (thumos), anger (orge), clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:26-27; 31-32*

When Anger becomes Murder

- Anger with a brother: the moment the sin of murder is imputed and needed repentance,
- Paul showed the emotion itself is not sinful:
- *Be angry, and do not sin: let not the sun go down on your wrath, Eph 4:26*
- Jesus “says” the precise moment of guilt “*angry with his brother.*”
- We can “*be angry and not sin,*” but we can also “*be angry*” and “*in danger.*”

The “Tipping Point” into Sin

- What is the line and tipping point?
- When anger is not lawful but sinful?
- Answer: *with a brother*
- Anger at sin, evil, wickedness or error is lawful,
- Anger directed at a person is not. “hate the sin but not the sinner,”
- Jesus says do not be “*angry with a brother.*”
God seeks mercy, patience, love, and forbearance toward our brother, anger with a brother can only short circuit it.

Anger at the sin... Not the Brother

- *Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 Jn 3:15*
- *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath(orge); for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom 12:19-21*

“*Raka*” and “*Moros*”

- Contempt: Not for the event but the brother
- “*raka...empty, i.e. a senseless, empty-headed man, a term of reproach used in the time of Christ...*” (Thayer, p 561; 4469)
- “*raka ... is a transcription of the Aramaic insult ... raka as a call to servants: “Hi there, you idiot!” ... It expresses vexed disparagement which may be accompanied by displeasure, anger, or contempt, and which is usually addressed to a foolish, thoughtless, or presumptuous person. The insult was regarded as harmless: “blockhead,” “donkey.”* (TDWNT; 4469)

“*Raka*” and “*Moros*”

- “*moros*... denotes dull, sluggish (from a root *much*, to be silly); hence, stupid, foolish... morally worthless, a scoundrel... more serious... than “*raka*”; the latter scorns a... mind and calls him stupid; *MOROS* scorns his heart and character;...: (Vine Vol. 2 p 114)

“Raka” and *“Moros”* Today

- STUPID!
- JERK!
- BLOCKHEAD!
- DUNCE!
- KNUCKLEHEAD!
- IDIOT!
- FOOL!
- BONEHEAD!
- IMBECILE!
- MORON!

Cursing Others

- *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. James 3:8*

Real Intent of “Shall Not Murder”

- The true intent of “*you shall not kill*” is immediate reconciliation and forgiveness.
- So we have to seriously consider the progression: “*every one who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; whosoever says to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever says, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire.”*”
- Jesus placed anger where they placed murder.
- Name calling is progression led to the council or hell of fire. He never gets to murder, which of course is worse than all the rest.