



The Heat Is On!

Matthew 5:21-26





The Heat Is On In the World!

- If the world is not the way it needs to be, what is OUR response?
- How do we make lasting social change in the world that is reflective of the kingdom of God?
- Is the “ballot box” the answer?
- While we just voted nationally and decided to usher in a new president, I will remind you that there are plenty of issues which demand more “nuance” than legislation (just changing parties in the white house will not solve America’s problems.)

The Issue List

- Racism
- Divorce
- Social Unrest
- Police Brutality
- The Pandemic
- The Economy

The Response to Killing African American Men or Police Officers Has Been To Protest!

- Protesting raises awareness to the problems, but even with raised awareness, change is slow and hard to measure





How Do We As Children Of God Make Social Change That Is Reflective Of The Kingdom Of God?

If you can't legislate a solution how
do you make real change?

The Statement: Change Starts With
the Heart (can be used as an excuse
not to DO anything)

In Matthew 5 Jesus identifies the problem, and it wasn't "**KILLING PEOPLE**" or "**MURDER**"


- Murder was the end result of the problem!
- Anger and Frustration, Jesus says, is where the problem starts
- People can't get along with each other, or work together, or live together
- People spend their days with each other and their nights angry, thus divisions grow and get toxic and ultimately "crazy things" can happen



Jesus Reminds His Audience Of Traditional Righteousness and Its Flaws

- Jesus says, *You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder,” and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.”* This is straight from the Ten Commandments
- Jesus’ point is that while this is true, it is also limited





Say for example, you don't kill anyone, but you have to work everyday with them

So you therefore refrain from murder, but you resent their attitude or live around them with so much hate that you can't get along together

In essence, you have satisfied the letter of the law, but life is still not good. There is still a lot of tension!



Observations

- Not murdering a person satisfies the most extreme possibility, but Jesus says, not the most common
- It's like a physician being able to cure bone cancer but not treat influenza
- Jesus says, *“whoever is angry with his brother or sister (a continual process of anger, harbors anger, the Amplified Bible) you are liable to judgment (unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court)”*
- You see, you don't have to murder someone to put yourself in a dangerous situation with God by, *“harboring anger!”*

We Create a Vicious Cycle!

You Find Yourself Angry (You don't kill), Where Does It Go?



It Builds Up In You!



It Becomes Toxic, Fear, Rage, Low Self-Esteem Might Set In!



It Separates Us From God's Character!



➤ This Police Officer violated
The commandment do not
kill, but does anyone doubt
that, long before George Floyd
was killed, anger had taken
root in this man?

➤ Or Dylan Roof, 26 y.o. S.C. Killer

➤ Anger, like a storm, may remain in
the ocean, but when it makes
landfall, ambulances come and
tears fall. When anger makes
landfall, you get:

(Drinking in excess, alcohol abuse,
violence, child abuse, spousal abuse,
murder after fear and anger marinates
like this father and son pictured here)





The Jesus Solution To Anger!

#1 Remember

- If you are offering a gift (you intend to remain faithful to God, offering prayer to God) and you remember that someone has an issue with you, don't wait on them to come to you, you go to them
- Some things should be addressed daily as you remember them (washing dishes, take a shower, clean up your anger) *"Be angry and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Ephesians 4:26*



#2 Go and Make Peace

- You go! The discussion is not a debate but a confession. Peace asks for your heart not your head
- Instead of waiting for others to make things right with us, we make things right with them. This is not the conventional way but the Jesus way

- **Be the first one to say, “I’m sorry!” The first one is the bigger one or the one more like Jesus**
- **When you go and face your anger in a relationship, you are saying, “*My relationship with you is more important than my anger about this issue.*”**





Realize, In Trying To Make Peace, Some People Will Never Like You!

- ▶ You must get over that. For example, young David had to finally conclude that his relationship with King Saul was never going to grow in a Godly direction
- ▶ David and Saul's son, Jonathan, were best friends, their souls were "knit together."
- ▶ But Saul ALWAYS SAW DAVID AS HIS ENEMY AND TREATED HIM THAT WAY!

(You too: wrong color, wrong sex, wrong economic status, wrong culture)

- ▶ This is where God steps in on behalf of His children; Romans 12:18-19, *"If it be possible as much....."*



Psalms 18:47-48

“He is the God who avenges me, who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes;

from a violent man you rescued me.

Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among all the nations;

I will sing praises of your name.”

Remember Proverbs 16:7, “When a man’s ways please the Lord....”

Remember Psalm 23:5, “Thou hast prepared a table before me.....”

#3 Then Give Your Gift and Settle Matters Quickly With Your Adversary

- **After making peace, then return to worship God with a clearer conscience**
- **It's more than a horizontal relationship with people that you seek, but it's the vertical relationship with God that charts your behavior**
- **In 2016, Omar Mateen killed 49 people in Orlando, Florida with an assault weapon. Gays and Lesbians were the targets of his anger.**
- **His anger boiled over in his strained horizontal relationships, but he didn't have a satisfying vertical relationship with God to chart his behavior**

Conclusion

- Traditional values will remind us of what we shouldn't do (don't murder)
- Jesus' values tell us what we can do
Leave, Go, Make Peace, Return, and Settle Matters
- The church should lead the world, and not follow, in making social change
- Jesus said in Luke 17:20, “...*the kingdom of God does not come with observation, nor will they say ‘See here! or See there!’ For indeed the kingdom of God is within you.*”
- Don't look for a large cultural church phenomenon, but look for the spiritual change in your life



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38, Acts 2:38