

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew 5-7

**Peace with Others**  
**Matthew 5:21-26**

# Matthew 5:21-26

**You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother<sup>c</sup> will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,**

# Matthew 5:21-26, cont.

leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

# The Authority of Christ

- The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.
- “But I say to you” – establishes His authority
- “The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master” (Peter Forsythe)

# The role of authority

**“The leadership of parents plays a significant role in the development of a child! By yielding to the loving authority (leadership) of his parents, a child learns to submit to other forms of authority that will confront him later in his life. Without respect for leadership, there is anarchy, chaos, and confusion for everyone concerned.” (James Dobson)**

# How does hatred impact us?

- Hatred reveals an impure heart
- Hatred blocks our worship
- Hatred hurts our business
- Peace with others reveals a good heart
- Peace with others both invites worship and comes from worship
- Peace with others prepares us for success

# Our peace and God

- **Peace with God: “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1)**
- **Peace of God: “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful” (Col. 4:14-15).**

# 1. What hatred does to our hearts

- Do not discount people as insignificant
- “Do not murder”
- Escalation of hatred and judgment:
  - “Angry” ... “subject to judgment”
  - “Raca” ... “answerable to Sanhedrin”
  - “Fool” ... “in danger of Gehenna”

# Gehenna

- Ge-hinnom in Hebrew “Valley of Hinnom”
- Compromised Solomon erected an altar to Molech (1 Kings 11:7)
- Evil kings Ahaz and Manasseh sacrificed their children on it (2 Chron. 28:3 and 33:6)
- Good King Josiah defiled it and scattered bones on it. (2 Kings 23:10-14)
- It became a place where unclaimed bodies were thrown, and where “the worm dies not” – a fitting image of hell.

# The better alternative

- Peace, love, respect toward others comes from God.
- “Show proper respect to everyone” (1 Peter 2:17)

## 2. What hatred does to our worship

- “At the altar” – in the midst of an act of worship
- “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar” (1 John 4:20).

# Isaiah 1:15-17

When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

# Shantung Revival, 1927-37

In southern China God brought a great revival to the churches. Faith grew, churches grew, people were saved, the saved were renewed, and relationships were reconciled.

# Shantung Revival, 1927-37

“Missionaries went to missionaries confessing unpleasant feelings toward one another. Chinese preachers, guilty of envy, jealousy and hatred, confessed their sins one to another. No one had said a word about public confession of sin, but the Holy Spirit had brought such conviction upon the group that none could keep from it.” (*The Shantung Revival*, C.L. Culpepper, p. 36)

# Our Brother or Sister

- Weaker brother – Romans 14:13: “Make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.”
- Offended brother – “If your brother has something against you”
- The brother who has offended us slightly – Prov. 19:11: “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.”

# Our Brother or Sister

- **The brother who has offended us greatly: Matthew 18:15-17:**  
“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

# Take the initiative

- Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.  
(Romans 12:17-18)

# 3. What hatred does to our success

- Be proactive in settling matters. “Seek peace and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11)
- If you are legalistic in settling disputes, you may be on the losing end.
- Grace and mercy toward others returns also to us. “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered” (Prov. 11:25).