

J-Walking Part 3

STICKS AND STONES

Matthew 5:21-26

“²¹You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

I. Jesus does not destroy the law, but fulfills the law. (Matthew 5:17)

- A. Notice that Jesus assumes authority to add to the Law of Moses. (Matthew 5:21, 7:28-29)
- B. Anger can lead to judgment. When we harbor anger towards others we are sinning. (Matthew 5:22, James 1:19-20)
- C. Seeing that anger can put us in “the danger of the fire of hell”, anger should be dealt with quickly. (Ephesians 4:26)

²³Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

II. Our relationship with others matters to God. (Matthew 5:23-24)

- A. Our relationships with others either inhibit or compliment our worship. (Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Peter 3:7)
- B. We must seek reconciliation before we can give our best to God. (Matthew 5:23-24)
- C. God expects us to take the initiative in restoring relationships with others. (Matthew 5:24, Romans 12:18)

²⁵"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

III. God expects...

- A. ...us to deal with conflict and anger quickly. (Matthew 5:25, Ephesians 4:26)
- B. ...us to forgive others. (Matthew 6:14-15, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12-14)
- C. ...us to make the most of every opportunity. (Matthew 5: 25, Ephesians 5:15-17)
- D. ...his people to be an example to the world. (Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Ephesians 2:14-16)

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