

Anger

Summary

“When you come to Christ, the Spirit of God makes His residence in your life. He lives there to control your emotions, to restrain your rage, to calm your tendency toward retaliation, and to give you genuine peace.”

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

Read the Passage: Matthew 5:21-26

Make observations while reading the text.

Main Idea in the text:

Malicious anger is evil, God has a better way for believers to live.

Jesus reveals his Deity

In the remainder of Matthew 5, Jesus illustrates this deeper righteousness through six subjects that include murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and love.

For each of these topics, Jesus repeats a pattern: “You have heard. . .But I say . . .”

Jesus was not addressing the act of murder but the attitude that inspires the act.

Jesus uses two examples concerning anger

Jesus gave two illustrations of anger, one involving worship, and the other, legal action.

Unrighteous Anger is negative in two ways

- Unrighteous Anger is destructive
- Unrighteous Anger is enduring

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

-C.S. Lewis

Application

1. Allow God's Spirit to reveal areas of bitterness in our hearts.
2. Make things right quickly.
3. God's love is greater than my bitterness for those who hurt me.

Discussion Questions

1. Our passage describes how our words may cause pain to others. List some ways that we may guard our words when we are tempted to be unkind.
2. Summarize the words used in an effective apology from the sermon this morning?
3. Reconciliation is stronger than revenge. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive?