

Fulfilled: Heart Murder

Matthew 5:21-26

Opening Discussion:

1. Why do you think is murder recognized as such a grievous sin in all cultures?
2. Jesus teaches that heart murder is just as bad as actual murder regarding our standing before God. Is that fair? Why or why not?
3. What is the connection between anger and murder? Insults and murder? Dismissing or rejecting people as worthless and murder?
4. Jesus sets a high standard in this passage. Is it too high of a standard to live up to?

Attacking others with our hearts, emotions, and words is an assault on the _____ of God given to all _____.

Explore the Passage

1. You have heard that it was said . . . but _____ to you

Jesus is not:

- _____ the Law
- _____ the commandment

Jesus is:

- Giving _____ to the commandment
- Adding a new _____ to the commandment
- Speaking as one who has _____ to do so

2. The _____ commandment: you shall not murder.

"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image." Genesis 9:6

3. The _____ commandment: you shall not murder with your hands or your heart.

Jesus teaches that three types of heart murder also elicit judgment

- Unrighteous _____: everyone who is angry with his brother
- Deep, serious _____: whoever insults his brother
- _____ as worthless: whoever says "You fool!"

"With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." James 3:9-10

4. The _____: reconcile with your brother or sister.

- Verse 23 shifts the impersonal “whoever” and “everyone” to the directly practical “you”
- Being reconciled with our brothers and sisters is so important that Jesus commands us to interrupt our worship of God and go to great lengths, if necessary, to make it happen.
- In this passage, the burden is placed upon the one who has offended the other person. In Matthew 18, the burden is placed upon the one who has been offended. Who has the responsibility of going to who? The one who recognizes the offense.

Our Father intends for His children to live in _____ with one another.

Fill in the Blank Answers:

Opening Discussion

Attacking others with our hearts, emotions, and words is an assault on the image of God given to all humans.

Explore the Passage

1. I, say, Undermining, Undoing, clarity, dimension, authority
2. original
3. full, anger, insult, Rejection
4. Application

Our Father intends for His children to live in complete peace with one another.