

## Anger

- I. **Introduction: Matthew 5:21-26**
  - a. There are many things in this world that can irritate us and get us angry
  - b. Jesus addresses anger in the context of murder
  - c. How are they related? Why does Jesus bring up both together?
  - d. Is anger wrong? Is anger a sin? What is Jesus really saying in the text?
  - e. How are we supposed to act as Kingdom citizens?
  
- II. **The Rule: Do not Murder (v. 21)**
  - a. Rules are important, but unfortunately, we have natural inclination to break rules or challenge the boundaries of rules
  - b. This hypocritical type of adherence to the law is vain, it is empty, it is pointless, it does not convey to others that we are citizens of the Kingdom
  - c. Those that want to just make it into heaven, will live by the law, and find that it is too hard to keep, and may not find entrance into the Kingdom
  - d. Those that want to bring heaven to this earth, will live for others, and find that they live out the law fully, and find that they are transformed
  
- III. **The Heart: Do not be Angry (v. 22)**
  - a. The heart of the issue is that murder is merely the logical end of deep seated anger, irritation, and resentment
  - b. Stages of anger as identified by Jesus
    - i. Silent Anger
    - ii. Verbal Anger
    - iii. Destructive Anger
    - iv. Lethal Anger
  - c. Jesus is not giving a new law, but revealing our current hypocrisy and clearly explaining the vicious cycle that we have started within our hearts
  
- IV. **The Command: Do not be slow to Reconcile (v. 23-26)**
  - a. Finally, Jesus gives us direct commands on how to be a Kingdom Citizens – how should we act? What are the actions?
    - i. Leave your gift in front of the altar
    - ii. Go and be reconciled to your brother
    - iii. Settle matters quickly while you are still with him
  - b. Jesus considers it far more important to be reconciled to a brother than to perform a religious duty
  - c. We must not think that our service towards God justifies anger
  - d. This is not a new law, this is not a lofty idea, this is not an unreachable paradigm, but these are TRANSFORMING INITIATIVES
    - i. Transforms the person who was angry into an active peacemaker
    - ii. Transforms the relationships from lethal anger into a true peacemaking process
    - iii. Transforms the current enemy into a possible friend
  - e. We are not merely called to be law-abiding, non-murderous people, but we are called to be a catalyst of change in an anger-driven world at work, school, and play

## Upcoming Events

**Men's Bible Study:** The Wednesday (February 3rd) evening at 6:30 - Daine Chennankara's apartment. Please contact Daine for address and directions.

**Hope for the Heart Training:** The next Hope for the Heart training on counseling issues is Tuesday, February 16th. This is an excellent training opportunity that will equip you to be salt and light. You can get more information on [www.hopefortheheart.org](http://www.hopefortheheart.org)

**Missions trip:** The dates for the first missions trip this year is Friday, May 28th - Saturday, June 5th. You will have the opportunity to be involved in tent meetings, orphanages and minister in local public schools. The cost of this trip will be \$1000 a person, consisting of travel, accommodations and meals. If you are interested in going, please contact Ben Skariah ([ben.skariah@loftworship.com](mailto:ben.skariah@loftworship.com))

**Union Gospel Mission:** Friday, February 12, 2010 - 6pm. Ministry starts at 6pm, so please there as close to 6pm as possible.



Invite your friends and join us as we watch the Super Bowl on the big screen here at LOFT.