

## Lesson 13: Matt 5:21-26

### Avoiding Unrighteous Anger

#### Introduction

Finishing Strong, Steve Farrar p. 3-6  
*What makes a rule, a good rule?*

Beatitude Review (see next page)

#### Our Influence

	SALT	LIGHT
IMPACT	Flavors Preserves	Clarifies Illuminates Glorifies
WHEN USELESS	Loses Saltiness Corrupted	Hidden Isolated

#### The Law

Unstoppable  
 Unalterable  
 Unavoidable  
 Essential

Jesus came to _____ it Not to _____ it
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**Matthew 5:21-26 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But 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.

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

<sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

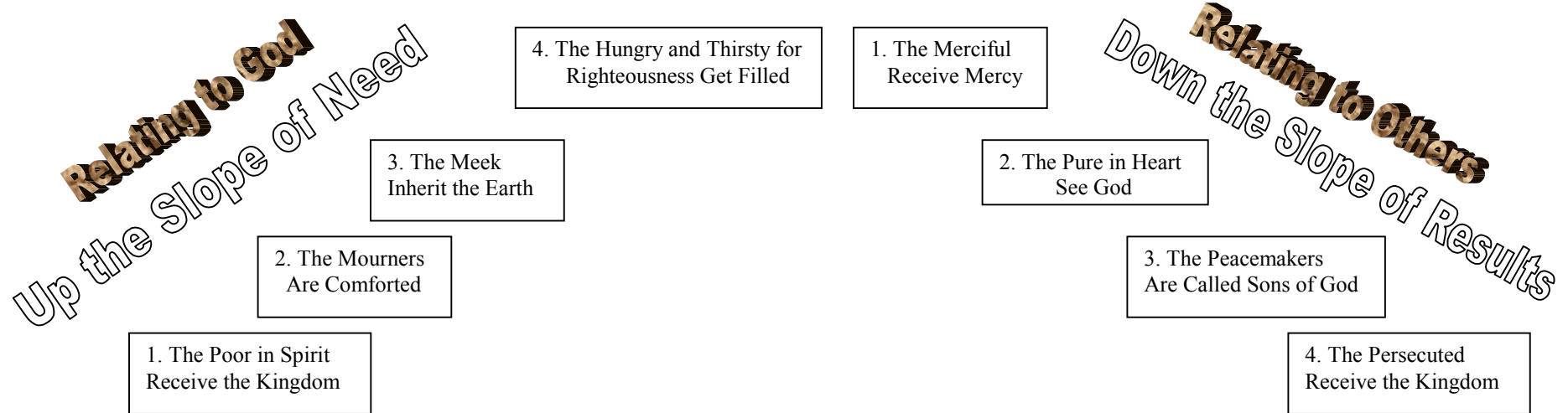
#### You Have Heard:

\_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

#### Murder on the Outside

- 25,000 Known Murders Committed Every Year In the U.S.
- Does Not Include Suicides & Abortions
- ***What do all of these people from Scripture have in common?*** Cain, Lamech, Pharaoh, Abimelech, Joab, the Amalekites, David, Absalom, Zimri, Jezebel, Haziell, Jehu, Athaliah, Joash, Manasseh, Herod, Judas, Barabbas, Herodias

# Pinnacle of Satisfaction



## Connections<sup>1</sup>

1. When you realize your own helplessness and hopelessness without God (poor), it is easier to be patient with others (merciful).
2. Before becoming pure in heart we first feel sorry that we are not. This sorrow, by God's grace, will lead to a cleansing purification of our heart.
3. Peacemakers need to be very gently and meek to bring two disputing sides together.
4. God promises that we will be satisfied (with righteousness) if we truly hunger and thirst for it. The natural consequence then will be that we are persecuted since this world loves the darkness and not the light.

<sup>1</sup> Idea visualized from the thoughts of Martin Lloyd-Jones in [Studies in The Sermon on the Mount](#), p. 107

**Why Is Murder So Bad?** Gen 9:6; Ex 20:13; Num 35:30,31  
Assaults the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Is Not Arguing ...

- For \_\_\_\_\_ Gen 9:6
- Against the \_\_\_\_\_ Penalty Rom 13:1-5

**“I Tell You”:**

Anger —————> Judgement

Raca —————> Sanhedrin

You Fool —————> Hell

Lk 18:11 Pharisees thanked God they were not like other sinners.

1 Jn 3:15

My self-righteous tendency to look down on others is stripped away as I realize I belong in that list! (Murder On The Inside)

***What Beatitude have we just modeled?***

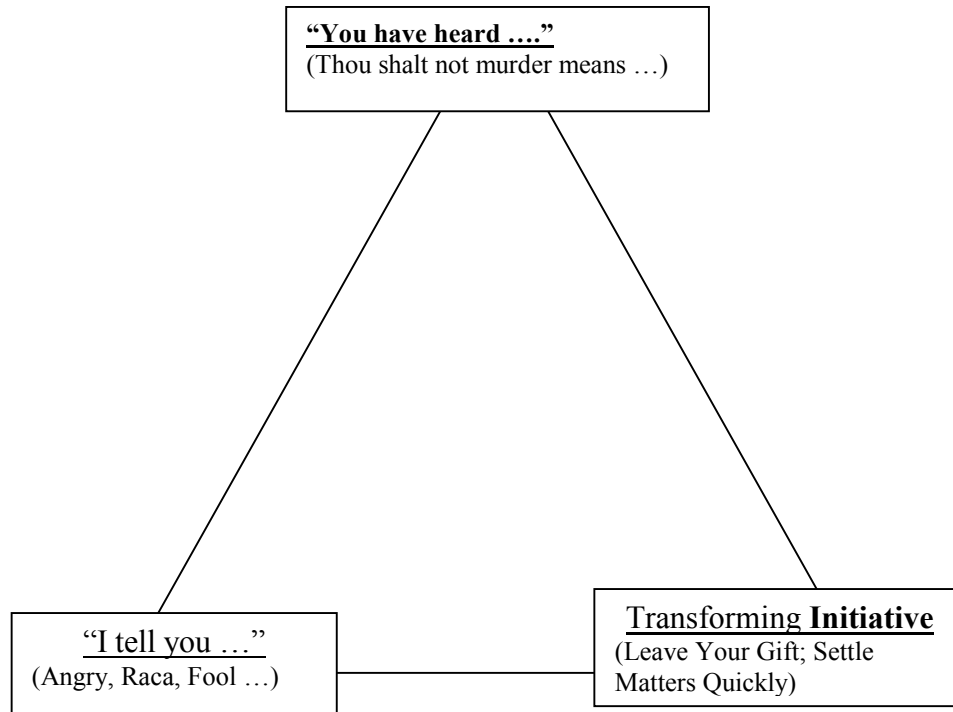
**Three Things That Are In The Same Category As Murder**

- 1) Unrighteous \_\_\_\_\_  
He is Not Talking About: Jn 2:14-17; Eph 4:26; Ps 7:11  
Gk: Origizo brooding, simmering resentment that does not want reconciliation Heb 12:15  
Penalty: Subject to Judgement (Human)
- 2) Calling Someone “\_\_\_\_\_”  
Worthless empty-head; slanderous contempt.  
Stott: Insult of a Person’s \_\_\_\_\_  
Penalty: Answerable to The Sanhedrin (Subject to Social & Religious Judgement)
- 3) Calling Someone “You Fool”  
Stupid & godless  
Stott: Expressed contempt of a person’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Penalty: In Danger of \_\_\_\_\_ (Subject to Divine Judgement)

All three insult and intend to do harm. They put the speaker in a position of judge and jury, where someone else is condemned.

In all three Jesus clarifies and extends both the definition and penalties of *murder*.

**Three Part Structure of Many of Jesus' Applications**



**Righteousness**

Gift (Sanctification)

Choice (Justification)  
Over Big Issues

Over Daily Habits

**Transforming Initiatives\* ; Two Illustrations**

1. In Worship With A Fellow Believer (23, 24)

- *A brother has something against me*
- *Leave gift*
- *First go*

2. In The Marketplace With An Unbeliever (25, 26)

- *Being taken to court, settle quickly*

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\* This 3-part pattern is noticed by Dr. Glenn Stassen, Fuller Seminary

- *On the way*
- *Until You Have Paid*

**SUMMARY:** Righteousness begins with a proper view toward the Christian and Non-Christian people around us.

- They are all made is \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's not my job to \_\_\_\_\_ their intellect or their character.
- Promoting peace affects my \_\_\_\_\_.
- Promoting peace affects my personal \_\_\_\_\_.

**Where Do We Go From Here? Applications**

(From Serendipity Bible: "If looks could kill," how many of your friends would be dead by now?)

**Take an honest look.** Do any of your friendships or associations need mending?

- Pray For Wisdom and Perhaps For Forgiveness
- Get Perspective
- Take The Initiative

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.