The School of Christ

Lesson 5 LIVING IN PEACE

THE HARD WORK OF RECONCILIATION

Matthew 5:21-26

The School of Christ

Command:

"Be reconciled to your brother or sister" (Matthew 5:24)

- A key statement found in the heart of the Sermon on the Mount

YOU HAVE HEARD... BUT I SAY TO YOU...

- The first of six antitheses (Matthew 5:21-48)
- Places a focus on the authority of Jesus' teaching – Ego = I

- Flows from Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil."

I. Anger

Matthew 5:21-26

PROHIBITION OF MURDER (V21)

- Based upon the 6th commandment; 'you shall not murder'
- Humans are not to damage one another – we are created in the image of God

A CALL TO PROBE DEEPER (V22)

- To reach the 'anger that leads to murder
- "but I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister ..."
- Anger/hate lead to violence

ABUSIVE SPEECH

- If you insult a brother or sister
- If you denigrate someone – 'raca' (fool); 'moro' (idiot)

OUR LANGUAGE

- Paul speaks to our language as a sign of our true self

"Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, "
"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."

Ephesians 4:26,29

PROBE DEEPER

- Jesus is addressing a legalistic spirit that prohibits murder + accepts hate
- A need for a self-audit to reflect on our own actions
- Negativity is the opposite of true passion/enthusiasm

II. Seek Reconciliation

Matthew 5:23-26

DON'T MAINTAIN DISTANCE/GRUDGES

- An example from worship
- If in worship you remember your spirit of resentment, misunderstanding – leave your gift and seek peace

SEEK RECONCILIATION

- 'Be reconciled' – addresses our relationship with God and others
- "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;"

2Corinthians 5:18

ON YOUR WAY TO COURT

- A second example – a parable found in Luke 12:58-59
- If you are going to court with an adversary – settle on the way so you will not go to jail

SEEK PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS

- Christians + non-Christians alike
- Seek reconciliation
- 'Blessed are the peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)

III. Going Forward

RELATIONSHIPS RESTORED

- We are to be shalom-bearers within the body of Christ + beyond

- Good relationships are difficult to maintain generally
- thus we need to be intentional to overcome brokenness

- Moving from a spirit of competition to compassion – through acts of generosity, hospitality, taking the initiative for healing
- Babette's Feast – healing over a meal

JUSTICE RE-ESTABLISHED

- Addressing issues like poverty, food scarcity, health concerns, mental health – traveling the path of Shalom
- We bring shalom where there is no shalom

BEAUTY REDISCOVERED

- Promoting beauty promotes goodness – Philippians 4:8
- Creation care is part of being a shalom-bearer – part of our mandate to bring reconciliation into our world