

## Matt 5:21-26

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT ANGER

Intro. Such a cross to bear, my temper. Can do something. Of course, some anger right, Rom 1:18, Eph. 4:26. But all other belongs to old and is put off, Col 3:8; Jas 1:19-20.

I. SEE IT for what it is, 5:21-22 It is murder.  
 v. 21 to the ancients in Exod 20:13 and judges in Deut 16:18. Vb in Exod 20 used 49x in OT and means murder, esp with premeditation. Never used of enemies in battle. But starts with anger, 22. Without a cause in some mss. No anger in heart or judgment (death by sword) by lower ct No Raca (Empty-head) contempt or council (71 member Sanhed in Jerus) (death by stoning).  
 No Fool-godless fellow. Gehenna, place in valley of Hinnom S Jerus where human sacrifices offered (Jer. 7:31) and where rubbish of Jerus burnt continually. Illus Lake fire. Continual anger is evidence of unsaved cond. John telescopes all these steps in 1 Jn 3:15. *Ev 2:8*  
 Concl: anger is (1) violation of Jesus' command; (2) road to <sup>possible</sup> murder; and (3) proof of absence of new life.

II. STOP IT as quickly as you can, 5:23-26

A. By giving top priority to this, 23. Over service or worship. Don't try to balance evil with good.

1 Sam 15. Saul told to destroy Amalekites entirely. Don't adjust commandments of God and then try to cover up with act of worship. Lk 16:15.

B. Be reconciled, 24. He's the one who has something against you. You innocent but remember. You go even tho he ought to take first step. Relationship be changed.

C. Make friends, 25. Be well-disposed. Secular illus but applies to point. God is our judge. Relatn with Him shown by relatn with brother.

Concl. Eph. 4:26. Evening prayer concern. Then can pray Mt 6:12 "as we have forgiven". Must be right with God to have answered prayer, and must be right with men to be right with God. Prob greatest weakness of Xns so as to be subject to Satan's attacks.