



PART 4: HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 5:21-26

Introduction:

Jesus redefined sin as the Pharisees understood it. Sin is a heart issue that needs to be pulled out at the root, it is not just limited to actions.

Anger can be compared to murder because the severity of consequences isn't the measuring tool. The measurement is the status of all sin with God.

Negative Heart Habits

1. Anger

"Find a person who has embraced anger, and you will find a person with a wounded ego." ~Dallas Willard

Anger is always searching for the fault in others in order to further justify itself.

Anger's goal is to "teach them a lesson"

Righteous anger is directed at sin, not people.

2. Contempt

Raca = "empty head"

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Contempt attacks the basic human need to belong. It isolates others and considers them as dirt. It is much more dangerous than anger because the heart has moved from reacting in hurt, to disowning that person.

3. Judging

"More" = outcast, scoundrel, apostate

"The man who tells his brother he is doomed to hell is in danger of hell himself" – Tasker

Positive Heart Habits

1. Humility

Being humble enough to recognize our failures is far more important than looking spiritual and being dead inside.

2. Forgiveness

Forgive. Quickly, before things get any worse.

3. Love

It is impossible to hate your neighbour if you love them the way that God does.

Conclusion:

Where you focus is where you will go.

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday January 24, 2016- Pastor Joe Bott

Life Group Discussion

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- How are anger and murder different? How are they the same?

2. Read Ephesians 4:26 & 27 and compare and contrast it with the passage in Matthew. What stand out to you?

- What does it mean to be angry and not sin? Is anger a sin in of its self? Is there such as thing as good anger? If so, what does it look like?
- Why do you think it is stressed to quickly resolve anger and reconcile in both of these passages?

3. How do the heart habits of humility, forgiveness & love counteract anger, contempt & judgmental attitudes?

4. What practical steps can you take to cultivate these positive heart habits in your life?

5. Pray:

- Pray that God would give us his heart of love for others
- Pray that God would give us boldness to reconcile to others
- Other requests...
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