

The Silent Murder of the Heart

In Mathew Five the words of Jesus cut straight through the surface righteousness and speaks directly to the secrete place s of the heart. You have heard that it was said to the people long ago. You shall not murder; and whoever murders shall be liable for judgment. But I tell you that anyone that is angry with his brother shall be liable for judgment.

I believe it's fair to say at first glance the crowd of people following Jesus felt safe I'm sure most of them most likely never committed a murder. They assumed that their righteousness was locked down by keeping their hands free from blood. But when Jesus steps on the scene, He shatters that fraudulent confidence by diving beneath the surface. He is declaring that murder does not begin with the weapon, it begins with the wounds inside the heart. Before any flesh is pierced with a weapon, bitterness pierces the soul. Before any crime reaches any courtroom, hatred has already passed the verdict in the secrete place of the heart. Verdict is. Guilty.

Then we have anger to deal with. Anger is not harmless just because it's odorless. It's the very acid that first eats through the vessel that carries it. What about brooding resentment. That can get real nasty, it will eat at your joy, eliminate all peace in your life. And leave your heart poisoned and vulnerable. If left unchecked, you can count on anger growing teeth, sharpening claws, and waits in the shadows seeking a chance to strike. Even worse we have hatred to deal with. Hatred is not only acid, but also wildfire. It doesn't just corrode it spreads, and it consumes. It's the fuel that is thrown on a smoldering flame to cause it to become a blazing fire. It destroys relationships, shatters families, and cuts off the flow of God within us.

Jesus even presses the issue further by declaring that hatred leaks out of the soul; through words, through contempt, and through some good ole fashion cold silence. The ruth is you don't need a gun to commit murder; words are sharp enough. And a sneer is like a sniper that assassinates dignity, and a cutting insult can stab deep into worth. Even silence laced with bitterness can choke out peace of any kind Jesus warns us about calling someone Raca, (worthless) or fool with contempt. He is showing us that the tongue can be a gun, and the heart behind it can be just as guilty as the hand that pulls the trigger.

Did you know that hatred and anger are the foundation for the enemy's playground. John shouted it loud in 1st John 3:15 "*Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*" Hatred is simply murder in slow motion; it truly robs us of eternal life while we are still breathing. It will blind us to the God's presence in our lives, and eventually bind us with spiritual shackles, and bury us under the weight of our own bitterness.

When Jesus speaks, his warning is far from soft. He doesn't say, "try and do better," he says it very clearly that harboring anger places us under judgment, and holding on to hatred puts us in danger of hells fire. This warning is not an exaggeration; it's the thundering truth. We can look at it like this. The fires of hell can first be stoked, by the fire of hatred in our hearts.

So, the big question is. What do we do? We move wisely and extinguish the fires before they consume us. Jesus calls us to reconciliation, to forgiveness, and to refuse to let the sun go down on our wrath. The anger that is real, the hurt that is painfully deep, and the betrayal that cuts to the bone. And more than that, holding on to anger is like grabbing a hot coal out of the grill, it burns us a lot worse than the ones we intended on throwing it at. The only remedy for this is Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross. He absorbed humility and hatred and instead of striking back He released forgiveness. "Father forgive them." If we don't pick up our anger and hatred and drag them to the cross, they will eventually drag us right into judgement.

The sobering truth is that hatred will kill long before the trigger is ever pulled. What does anger really do? It murders peace before it murders people, and this is a thunderous warning from Jesus. Don't nurse the fire, extinguish it before it kills you.

This message is serious. Lay down your grudges, let loose of any hatred you may be carrying, and kill the anger within you before it writes a death sentence over your life. Because the true test of righteousness is not clean hands but a free heart. Anger will always start the fire, but Jesus is the living water that puts it out. Thank you, Lord.

I truly hope this blessed you today and I hope your day is amazing. Be blessed.

Lite Winds,

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