

TALK IT OVER

Blueprints: Blueprint of the Heart

Week 4 – Rules to Relationships

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Icebreaker: What's the silliest thing that's ever made you irrationally angry—like yelling at traffic, arguing with a smart speaker, or losing it over missing socks?

Big Idea: Jesus moves us from rules to relationships

Overview of the Sermon on the Mount:

1. Introduction: Identity (Beatitudes & Salt/Light) – Weeks 1 & 2
2. Body:
 - a. The Law (Torah & Prophets) – Week 3
 - i. How to engage scripture
 - ii. 6 case studies - Today
 - iii. Be complete
3. The Choice'

Matthew 5:21-22 (NASB) "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not murder,' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be answerable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Three Shades of Murder

1. Murder

Ex 20:13 You must not murder

Greek word for murder = *ratsach* = intentional, unlawful killing

2. Anger

Matthew 5:22 (NASB) But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be answerable to the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be answerable to the supreme court;

Good for nothing = Aramaic word *raca* = worthless, empty-headed, good for nothing.

Contempt is the single greatest predictor of divorce and relational breakdown.

3. Name-calling

Matthew 5:22 (NASB)...and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Fiery hell = Gehenna (Valley of Hinnom)

What is Jesus saying?

- ✓ In our world: Big sin = big punishment, Small sin = no big deal
- ✓ Kingdom of Heaven = heart sins matter just as much, sometimes more. They show what kind of person we're becoming.

Relationships over Rules

1. Examine my heart

Matthew 5:23 (NASB) "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you..."

2. Mend the relationship

Matthew 3:24 (NASB) "...leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

How?

- Own my words
- Apologize sincerely
- Make amends
- Choose to believe the best, not assume the worst
- Replace lies with God's truth
- Seek counsel to explore the heart

Action Item this week:

Think...of someone that stirs up thoughts of murder, anger, contempt, name-calling.

Ask...How do I align my heart with Jesus' blueprint?

Week 4: The Blueprint of the Heart Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most in today's message about murder, anger, and name-calling?
2. Have you ever experienced or witnessed the destructive power of contempt in a relationship (e.g., at home, work, church)?
3. Jesus emphasized reconciliation before worship. Why do you think God prioritizes healing human relationships before receiving spiritual offerings?
4. Which of the three "shades of murder" (murder, anger, name-calling) do you personally struggle with the most—and why?
5. Is there someone in your life today that you may need to reconcile with?

Digging Deeper:

Bible Project overview of the Sermon on the Mount video:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-5-7-sermon-overview/>

Bible Project video on Matthew 5:21-24: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/wisdom-underneath-laws/>

Bible Project Podcast on Sermon on the Mount: Murder:

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/how-anger-same-murder>