

Kingdom Standard: We must treat every person in every encounter as an infinitely precious being in the image of God, never demeaning and condescending in anyway.

V23-24 Stop worship. Go reconcile. Then return.

Contempt that leads to division/discord is a **contradiction** for those who truly know God and an **abomination** before our Holy Loving God. (Pro.6:16-19; Matt.5:9; Mark 12:30-31; 1Jn.2:9-11, 3:15, 4:20)

V25-26 Unhealed sinful anger: will harden your heart, turn into bitterness, damage relationships, give Satan a foothold, distort your view of God, and lead to greater sins (division, hatred, revenge, murder). (Heb.12:15; Eph.4:26-27, 31-32; Matt.18:21-35)

We don't pursue reconciliation to earn God's favor—we pursue it because we've already received it.

Two Tools:

1) **Repentance** —take full responsibility (no excuses), ask for forgiveness, commit to change. Even if you're only 20% wrong—own it fully.

2) **Forgiveness** —(prerequisite) you are a sinner saved by grace. If God counted your sins you would be lost. The more you grasp the gospel the less you hold grudges. You've been forgiven an infinite debt—others owe you a finite one.

When you're tempted to dismiss/distain someone: Remember Jesus was a somebody who became a **nobody** (Phil.2:5-8)...so you, a nobody, could become a **somebody** forever.

How can I treat this person as less?

Growing Notes:

Where are you most tempted to “manage appearances” instead of surrendering your heart? Which defense mechanisms do you personally tend to use? When you get “caught off guard,” what tends to come out of you? What does that reveal?

In Matthew 5:17-20, what does Jesus mean when He says He came to “fulfill” the Law? What is the difference between a “religion mindset” and a “gospel mindset” in daily life? Why does Jesus say that external righteousness (like the Pharisees) is not enough?

According to Jesus, why is anger such a serious issue? What will unhealed sinful anger produce? What are the two tools for healing relationships? How can you build a daily habit of checking your heart and using these two tools? Who in your life can help hold you accountable to living this out?



Coming Up

MAY 3	db STARTING POINT Sundays @ 8am For 8 weeks Register online	MAY 8	PARENT'S NIGHT OUT 5:30-9:30PM Register online
MAY 9	LADIES BRUNCH Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Register online	MAY 16-17	db FAMILY CAMPOUT Register online
MAY 16-17	CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTER Baby Bottle Drive Continues through June 21	MAY 23	SUNDAES ON SATURDAY 4:30PM Community Hall
JUNE 3	db LADIE'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 4 weeks in June Register online Childcare provided	JUNE 8-12	ANOMALY JUNIOR HIGH CAMP Register online

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CURRENT SERIES

Kingdom Culture The Gospel of Matthew

Next week's sermon – Beyond Religion Matt. 5:17-26

DO YOU NEED PRAYER?

- >Elders/Pastors available after every service to pray with you.
- >Call the church office to be added to the prayer chain.
 - >Sunday night prayer meeting 6pm, in the lobby
- >Elders meeting 3rd Wed. monthly, Elders available for prayer and anointing.

James 5:14 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*



**Our Café is open 45 minutes before each service.
You can order online through the QR code below.**



REGISTRATIONS

Check out our website for upcoming events @ dbcc.com
Please register for classes that require Childcare

Church office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am - 3pm 602-374-4588

We are thankful for your prayerful, consistent and faithful giving.



Actual \$29,241 - Budget \$31,000 – YTD AVG \$34,441

DYTM - \$185



April 25/26
2026

KINGDOM CULTURE
“Beyond Religion” (Matthew 5:17-26)

Ray Davis

“Surely what a man does when he is taken off his guard is the best evidence of what sort of man he is.” – C.S. Lewis

There are Two of You: There's the True (instinctive) You and there's the Pretense You.

When you are in extreme pain and incredible danger you will always act instinctively (2nd nature)—that's the “True You.”

The Pretense You is a defense mechanism hiding the Broken You. Defense Mechanisms: intellectualism, humor, busyness, ignorance, spirituality, discipline, superficiality, anger, people pleasing, materialism, religion (self-righteousness), etc. Jesus did not come to create better actors. He came to create new people.

The Role of God's Word in Transformation: (v17-20)

V17 Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died so that we could be perfect righteous before God. (2Cor.5:21; Rom.5:1; Col.1:22)

V18 God's Word (Law) is an unshakable foundation for building your life. (Matt.7:24-27; Ex.20:3-17; Matt.22:34-40)

V19 Living and helping others to live God's word defines GREATNESS.

V20 Living God's Word is more than behavior modification, it's heart (identity) transformation.

Case Study: ANGER (v21-26)

V21-22a It's the internal attitude of anger that produces the external action of murder. It is more important to deal with the malice than the murder it can potentially lead to.

V22b Murder -> Anger -> Contempt/Distain

Clarification: Is all anger wrong? No – Jesus got angry (i.e. John 2; Mark 3; John 11) There is a difference between compassion vs. contempt motivated anger. How do you know the difference?

Diagnostic questions:

- >Do I wish or imagine their downfall or destruction?
- >Do I enjoy thoughts of their suffering?
- >Do I relay scenarios where they're humiliated?