THE JESUS WAY: MURDER

11.1.26

Matthew 5:21-26 (NIV)
21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID (v.21)

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BUT I SAY (v.22)

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Anger murders relationships.

Don't murder people's value with words

Don't murder people's character with our words

Bruce, "*Raca expresses contempt for a man's head= you stupid! More* (fool) *expresses contempt for his heart and character =you scoundrel"!*

It is "character assassination?"

THEREFORE GO (v.23-24)

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

WE CANNOT BE RIGHT WITH GOD UNTIL WE ARE RIGHT WITH EACH OTHER.

Psalm 66:18 (NIV) If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

1. **To go is not saying they were right. It may be admitting where we were wrong.**
2. **We are not responsible for their reactions. We are responsible for ours.**
3. **God wants us to reconcile our hearts. He may not require us to reconnect our paths.**
4. **Ultimately this isn't about them and us. It is about God and us.**

Only God knows what He can do with a people who are willing to do His will even when it is hard.

Settle (v.25-26)

25 "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the

way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Kent Hughes, "*Jesus advice is to do what you can to make amends and do it quickly. If you do not, an inevitable process (like the legal process) will catch up with you, and you will have to pay the maximum penalty. Personal conflicts can often be resolved if dealt with quickly. However, if one puts off dealing with them, you and everyone else will have to pay."*

Continued irritation often results in fixation which can lead to exaggeration and escalation.