

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MATTHEW 5:21-26
DECEMBER 5, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 5.21ff, Jesus discusses a series of commandments taken from the Law of Moses.
 - a) **MATTHEW 5.17,18:** Jesus is not putting Himself in opposition to the Law. Jesus upheld and promoted the Law. (Luke 10.25-28; 18.18-22)
 - b) **MATTHEW 5.19:** The scribes and Pharisees “relaxed” (ESV) the Laws of Moses emphasizing some while neglecting others. (Matt. 23.3,4,23-28; 15.3-9; 16.12)
 - c) **MATTHEW 5.20:** You and I are to do better than the scribes and Pharisees.
2. Jesus contrasts the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees with the true expectations of God.

I. UNFOLDING THE LAW OF MOSES

- A. The teachings of the scribes and Pharisees.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.21:** *“You have heard that it was said to those of old”*
 - a) The Jews were taught by the religious leaders. (Matt. 7.28,29; 15.14)
 - b) This emphasizes personal responsibility in Bible study. (Acts 17.11)
 2. **MATTHEW 5.21:** *“You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.”* (Ex. 21.12)
 3. Teaching only part of the Law, the Pharisees neglected the true heart of the Law. To surpass the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you are to keep all the law.
- B. The teachings of Jesus on the Law.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment”*
 - a) Thumos: Literally, passion. An explosive anger that quickly subsides.
 - b) Orge: A low burning anger that has plots revenge.
 - c) **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“shall be in danger of the judgment.”* Judicial punishment.
 2. **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’”*
 - a) Literally, empty one, empty headed, worthless.
 - b) The idea is one of lashing out in anger. (Eph. 4.31)
 - c) **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“shall be in danger of the council”* (Gk: Sunedrion)
 3. **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“But whoever says, ‘You fool!’”*
 - a) Literally, dull, stupid, blockhead.
 - b) The idea is one of evil speaking. (Eph. 4.31)
 - c) **MATTHEW 5.22:** *“shall be in danger of hell fire.”*
- C. Is it wrong to be angry? (Eph. 4.26; 1 John 3.15)
 1. Is it wrong to use derogatory words, name calling?
 2. Did Jesus ever call individuals names? (Matt. 23.17-19)

II. APPLYING THE LAW OF MOSES

- A. **MATTHEW 5.23:** Resolve conflict to be pleasing to God. (cf. 1 John 4.20,21; 1 Tim. 2.8)
- B. **MATTHEW 5.24-26:** Resolve conflict to avoid further punishment.
 1. Being angry has resulted in your being taken to court. (Matt. 5.22)
 2. Resolve conflict before you get to court lest you be sentenced. (Matt. 5.25,26)