Everyday Ethics #6 Pastor Rick Baker

May 22 2022

**Handling Anger**

Matt. 5:21-26

What a “surpassing righteousness”, a righteousness from Christ, lives like, practicing and teaching the commands...

**God is intolerant of hurting other people!** *Healing deeply broken places...*

The command concerning murder is rooted in the deeper reality of God’s extreme displeasure for contempt of human life.

1. *When someone angers you...*

“Carried anger” creates a murderous heart (21,22).

 A decision to stay angry, to harbour ill-feelings.

 Jesus does not justify the continuation of anger; in fact, He judges it.

The harmful sounds of carried anger are tongue murder

 Rhaka—Contemptible airhead

 Fool—Immoral moron

 *“God’s wrath is God’s war of love against everything gratuitously hurtful.”* (F. Bruner)

1. *When you have angered someone...*

Jesus’ “altar call” requires a right relationship with people before a right relationship with God is possible (23-24)

When it comes to being right with either God or brother/(sister), there is no either/or; it is both/and or neither. (cf. Rom. 12:18)

Jesus’ “court call” expresses best the seriousness of provoking people to anger (25-26).

 Procrastination in fixing wrongs exacts an unthinkable toll—potentially an unpayable debt.

“Anger carried and vented...is a Last-Judgment-and-Hell-deserving-crime!”

*Those whose righteousness surpasses the Pharisees, are empowered to practice and teach the removal of carried anger from their lives.*