



Kingdom Culture

sermon on the mount series

June 11th

PERSONAL REFLECTION OR GROUP DISCUSSION

MATTHEW 5:21-26

Here Jesus teaches about anger and reconciliation. Like his other teachings in the sermon on the mount, he probes the attitude that underlies and precedes actions. He upholds the letter of the law “you shall not murder” Exodus 20:13 and Matthew 5:17-19 but here, as elsewhere, focuses on the spirit of the law in order to “fulfill the law” Matt 5:17

Questions:

1. Other than physical violence, discuss ways in which people commit ‘violence’ against others. E.g., online attacks.
2. Jesus got rightly angry when he cleared out the temple with his homemade whip and launches a verbal tirade against the religious authorities in Matthew 23. Yet here he preachers against anger and verbally abusing others. Please explain....
3. According to Jesus, before offering our ‘gifts at the altar,’ we should first seek reconciliation with those with whom we have conflict. How does unresolved conflict impact our interpersonal relationships, worship and spiritual life?
4. The passage highlights the significance of resolving conflicts before they escalate. What are some effective strategies or approaches we can adopt to resolve conflicts peacefully and restore broken relationships?
5. Forgiveness plays a crucial role in the process of reconciliation. How can we cultivate a forgiving spirit in ourselves and extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us, even in difficult circumstances?
6. What part does a humility that comes from understanding God’s grace to us, help us to reach out to others who have wronged us?
7. Jesus links reconciliation with urgency and warns against delaying the process. Why do you think timely reconciliation is emphasized in this passage? What are the potential consequences of prolonging conflicts and failing to seek resolution promptly?

To take home and consider:

Is there a relationship that needs your initiative to promote reconciliation. What might you do to reach out with an ‘olive branch’?