

**Temptation of Relationships – ANGER – Matthew 5:21-26**

Information:

Most murders occur between friends and family

The root of murder is a certain kind of anger

The kind of anger needs to be clearly differentiated from the anger of Eph.

4:26-27.

The ability to feel anger is normal and necessary.

All anger is dangerous – 5:22

The key to the kind of anger condemned here is 5:22 “raca: and “you fool”

Thought Starters:

I would define the anger of 5:22 as....

When must I leave my gift at the altar?

Why is that reconciliation statement in this immediate context?

What kind of anger makes quick agreement impossible?

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes will help me control my anger?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to anger?

**Temptation of Relationships – ADULTERY – Matthew 5:27-32**

Information:

Biblical terminology:

Adultery involves marital unfaithfulness

Lasciviousness is open, blatant sexual immorality

Fornication is wider than adultery, less blatant than lasciviousness

Lust is a general term for anxious, self-seeking, usually an evil desire to possess

Hell – the term used here “gehenna” is the name of the public garbage dump in Jerusalem

Thought starters –

I understand “to look on to lust after” as.....

Is it possible to be brothers and sisters?

What does lust show about me? About the others?

Why is this teaching the place radical co-operation is introduced (29-30)?

What is the significance of the hand and eye in lusting?

How does the *Playboy* philosophy differ from the philosophy of Jesus regarding women?

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes will help me control my lust?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to adultery?

**Temptations of Relationships – DIVORCE – Matthew 5:21-32**

Information:

Matthew 19:3-12 is the most complete account of Jesus teaching on divorce. In the Old Testament, divorce is the right of the husband. Hardness of heart was the reason Moses was allowed to make a place for divorce.

Thought Starters –

Why is this sermon the obvious context for the teaching on divorce? (5:27-30, 33-37)

Divorce is allowed when....

Is the last phrase of verse 32 connected with verse 31?

First part of verse 32?

Middle phrase of 32?

Can there be re-marriage without adultery?

Why is the Bible so set against divorce?

Agree or disagree – “If I divorce my spouse, I say he/she is not worthy of my love”....

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes will help me control my tendency to divorce?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to divorce?

**Temptations of Relationships – YOUR WORD – Matthew 5:33-37**

Information:

The issues: not the courts where swear to tell the truth, but in everyday life where the need the reinforce truthfulness of your word with God

Invoking God's name or anything less will not deter the truth or falseness of the statements

Thought starters –

Is it necessary for me to append, "*I swear to God it's true*" or the like before people believe me?

Where is it easy for me to let my "yes" mean yes and my "no" mean no?

Where is it most difficult?

What makes it difficult for me to state the truth?

Where can I start to become more trusted to mean what I say?

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes help me control my tendency to hedge my word?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to the issue of truthfulness and speech?

**Temptations of Relationships – VENGEANCE – Matthew 5:38-42**

Information:

The issue: getting even, striking back, "Eye for eye" an advance from wiping out whole family for loss of one eye

"To slap with open palm" usually more to insult or embarrass while "to hit with closed fist" usually to inflict injury.

One mile the legal limit allowed Roman soldiers in compelling civilians to carry their gear.

Thoughts Starters

Where am I most concerned about getting even?

Do I find myself keeping track of insults, slights, and injuries?

What does this tell me about myself?

Is it practical to translate this principle into life?

How is Jesus the model for living this kind of vulnerable life?

What is the "law" that these illustrations illumine?

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes help me to control my tendencies to strike back, get even?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to the desire for vengeance?

**Temptations of Relationships – LOVE ENEMIES/NON-FRIENDS- Matthew 5:43-48**

Information:

The logical summary of temptations of relationships

Three kinds of love:

*Eros* – what you do for me

*Phileo* – you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours

*Agape* – what I do for you

Only here is the Father's attitudes and actions the explicit basis for our stance

Thought starters –

How are enemies usually treated?

If I love my enemies, I will not.....

If I love my enemy, I will....

How can I define the love expected here?

What can anybody, friend or non-friend expect to receive from me?

What components of the personality of the Beatitudes help me to develop my love in an authentic way?

What other New Testament Scriptures speak to the need of love?