**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (3)**

**MATTHEW 5 :17-26**

**INTRODUCTION**

**The good news: You’ve never killed anyone.**

**The bad news: You’ve broken the sixth commandment: “Thou shall not murder”**

**The point Jesus makes in these verses: Anger is a serious matter. If you’re angry, you should deal with it quickly.**

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS GREATER THAN ONE MAY THINK OR UNDERSTAND IT TO BE (vv.17-20)**

**The Law and the Prophets = The Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures) (v.17)**

**Some may have thought that Jesus’ teaching was in conflict with it, or didn’t respect it as the Scriptures of the Jews warranted. (v.17)**

**Jesus makes clear that the “whole” of it is the Word of God (vv. 18,19) (cf. Paul 2 Timothy 3:16,17)**

**In fact , He came to “fulfill” it:**

**1. Concerning the predictive aspect of it (prophecy), He is the one towards all prophecy looks**

**2. Concerning the ceremonial aspect of it (sacrificial system), the cross of Christ speaks to its end**

**3. Concerning the moral aspect of it (the law) , He has kept it “perfectly” .**

**In other words, far from being abolished, the Law and Prophets (the Hebrew Bible) find its valid continuity in terms of its outworking in Jesus.**

**MOST IMPORTANTLY: Jesus makes the point that, in fact, the righteousness of the kingdom of heaven surpasses that of the religious establishment (the Pharisees and the teachers of the law). (v.20)**

**How so? Jesus, in the next six illustrations concerning: murder, adultery, divorce, oath taking, vengeance, and dealing with enemies, is going to make the point that the ethics of the kingdom go beyond what those who respected and reverenced the Hebrew Scripture understood and were teaching.**

**Note: What this verse does not tell us is how such righteousness is attainable.**

**BEING ANGRY IS A SERIOUS (ACTUALLY VERY SERIOUS) MATTER (vv.21-26)**

**“You have heard that it was said…” is repeated six times in this section of the Sermon on the Mount.**

**(vv. 21,27,31,33,38,43). Jesus is making the point that “the teachers of the law” are interpreting the**

**Scripture in a certain way- but it’s not the right way! They really have not caught the “intent” of the**

**commandments. They are supporting the letter of the law but not its spirit.**

**EG. The sixth commandment says: YOU SHALL NOT MURDER. The teachers: “If you kill someone you have broken the commandment and will be punished.” (v.21)**

**Jesus: “But I tell you..” He is about to give correct understanding. (v.22)**

**Jesus: Anger is a violation of the sixth commandment. (v.22)**

**Acting with anger and contempt : Raca (ie. blockhead) and calling one “You fool” make you guilty and call you into judgment.(v.22)**

**“These verses make one great point. The law forbidding murder must not be thought adequately satisfied when no blood has been shed. Rather, the law points toward a more fundamental problem, man’s vilifying anger. Jesus by his own authority insists that the judgment thought to be reserved for the actual murderer in reality hangs over the wrathful, the spiteful, the contemptuous. What man then stands uncondemmed?” (D.A.Carson)**

**WHEN RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT RIGHT, RECONCILIATION IS NECESSARY (vv.23-26)**

**Religious duties should be set aside for reconciliation to take place first. vv.23,24**

**There is an urgency in this matter. Reconciliation should not be put off. vv. 25,26**

**LIFE LESSONS**

**1. The Sermon on the Mount speaks much about the importance of personal relationships, about**

 **treating people in the right way.**

**2. All of us are made in the image of God. Therefore we need to treat everyone with respect.**

**3. We need to be careful with our words.**

**4. Anger is a violation of the sixth commandment.**

**5. God looks at the heart, not just outward actions.**

**6. Reconciliation with others is of first importance.**

**7. It is best to seek reconciliation quickly and not let matters get worse.**