



## **“Who is the Real Murderer?”**

**Matthew 5:21-26**

**01-29-2012**

**→ Warm up...**

1. If you could proclaim a national day – what would it be?
2. What church chose Paul and Barnabas to spread the Gospel?

**→ Introduction...** In today’s lesson we’re going to look at real ways to solve conflict so that we can put a stranglehold on our anger. This passage will show us biblical ways to communicate and resolve our issues with people.

**→ Explore it...** Read Matt 5:21-26

1. The topic is murder, but Jesus addresses the spirit of the Law.
  - a. Regarding God’s laws, does following the spirit of the Law mean limiting or expanding obedience?
  - b. How did Jesus answer this question elsewhere? See Luke 10:27-37.
  - c. Do you have another definition or concept of what “the spirit of the Law” means?
2. What did Jesus expand the meaning of “do not murder” to include?
3. Are there different consequences for murder and anger?
4. Read Eccl 7:9 and Ps 14:1. When your anger is out of control, what does this demonstrate about your relationship with God? How does it affect your worship?
5. Read Gal 5:22-23. Which of the fruit of the Spirit does anger violate?
6. What does Jesus tell us to do if we are angry at another or if they may be angry with us (Matt 5:23-25)?
7. What things does Jesus use to emphasize the importance and urgency of doing this?
8. Are we responsible for all the grudges and anger that people may have against us (Rom 12:18)?
9. Comment on Pastor Steve’s rules of reconciliation. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
  - a. He who knows first – goes first. (Admit there is something between you. Attack the problem not the person. Acknowledge your fault. Apologize and ask for forgiveness. Arrange to make things right – make restitution. Agree to go to each other if a problem develops in the future.)
  - b. Never attempt to reconcile by e-mail, text, or Facebook.

- c. Allow for more than one meeting.
  - d. Seek wise and neutral counsel.
  - e. Share nothing about the other person – just the problem and how you hope to resolve it and reconcile.
  - f. If all else fails – bring someone with you.
  - g. Don't rule out biblical counseling.
10. Pastor Steve listed prominent positions such as the President, politicians, news commentators, talk show hosts, and even local preachers who can't go to every person who may have something against them. Using principles in Matt 5:9 and 5:22, how should we react to them?
- a. When they have ungodly policies or opinions.
  - b. When they have policies or opinions we don't like (not moral issues).

➔ **Apply it...** As you think back on this lesson – answer these questions personally with I, me, and my ...

1. If someone has something against you, is it because of something you should not have done or should not have said? Is it because of something you should have done or should have said, but didn't? In other words, have you wronged someone? Have you taken the steps above to attempt reconciliation? What is keeping you from doing it? Who can you find to help you do what you need to do?
2. If someone has something against you and you're not to blame, are you still willing to humble yourself and make the contact before you come to church next Sunday?
3. Do you get angry easily? Do you have a short fuse? Are you easily frustrated, resulting in yelling, feeling or getting out of control? Is it always the other person's fault? What do you think is the real source? What are you going to do about it? Send an email to [counseling@chccbw.org](mailto:counseling@chccbw.org) if you need help.
4. Do you call people you see on TV (or in traffic) jerks? Do you slander politicians or other public figures? Do you repeat bad news (forward e-mails) about them without verifying the facts? Remember, just because it's on the internet doesn't make it true.

➔ **Pray it...** Dear Lord, you don't leave me any room to get angry with others. I admit that it is hard for me to live and love as you have. My anger is seldom if ever righteous as I am not able to see the whole picture as you do. Help me demonstrate your love in my life so I can be a peacemaker and bring honor and glory to you. Give me the strength to face those I've offended, apologize and reconcile.