



After introducing his sermon with talk about the character of a disciple (5:3-12), the influence of a disciple (5:13-16), and the righteousness of a disciple (5:17-20), Jesus pivots to highlight the battles his disciples must fight. But these aren't battles against Rome. Jesus isn't calling his followers to pick up physical weapons and wage war against other people. These are battles of the human heart, and they are very real. He begins with **anger**...

"You have heard that it was said to those of _____, 'You shall not _____; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is _____ with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, _____ your gift there before the altar and _____. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny." (5:21-26)

From there, Jesus immediately highlights another battlefield of the human heart: **lust**...

"You have _____ that it was said, 'You shall not commit _____.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful _____ has already committed adultery with her in his _____. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into _____. (5:27-30)

Clearly, Jesus is doing much more than simply reading or reciting the Law of Moses. By the time he is done with his sermon, Matthew tells us...

...the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had _____, and not as their scribes. (7:28-29)

...and this section of his sermon is a great example of why they said that. So what do we need to see and understand in order to walk with him today? Let's dig in...



For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Jesus begins this section of his sermon by quoting the sixth commandment in Exodus 20: "You shall not murder." He'll go on to quote the seventh commandment: "You shall not commit adultery." What do you think? Why wouldn't Jesus just leave those commandments alone and expect his followers to follow them? After all, those commandments had been around for a very long time. Why add anything to them?
2. "You have heard that it was said... But I say to you..." Who does Jesus think he is? Isn't that question what would be on the minds of many? Who has ever had the right to quote one of the LORD's commandments and follow it up with, "But I say to you"? What are we learning about Jesus of Nazareth in Matthew 5?
3. Why is anger a very real battlefield for disciples of Jesus? Of all the things Jesus could highlight, why anger?
4. Looking carefully at what Jesus taught in 5:22-26, how has he taught us to deal with our anger?
5. And lust? How is that a very real battlefield for disciples of Jesus? Why are these battles that we must be willing to fight as his followers?
6. Looking carefully at what Jesus taught in 5:27-30, how has he taught us to deal with lust?