

If looks could kill

Matthew 5:21-26

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.¹

☐ The Problem

- **Anger kills (21-22)**

Anger leads to contempt, insults, and the desire to get rid of another person.

- **Anger kills worship (23-24)**

Anger hinders our relationship with God.

- **Anger kills relationships (25-26)**

Anger turns a brother into an adversary.

☐ The Solution

- **Confess your sin (21-22)**

Recognize the severity of anger and its consequences.

- **Correct the injustice (23-24)**

Reconciliation is more important than worship.

- **Do it immediately (25-26)**

Right relationships demand decisive action.

- **Ask God to change your heart**

Jesus wants to transform us from the inside out.

***Because anger hinders worship and harms relationships,
we must act quickly to heal a broken relationship***

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version.* electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984