

# Vindictive Anger is Murder

## Matthew 5:21-26

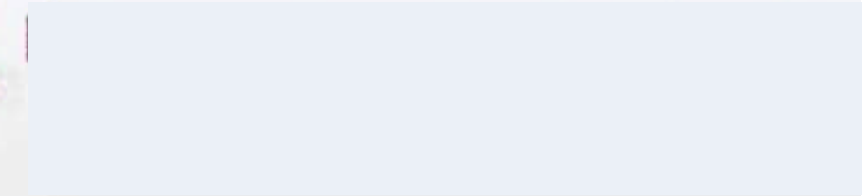
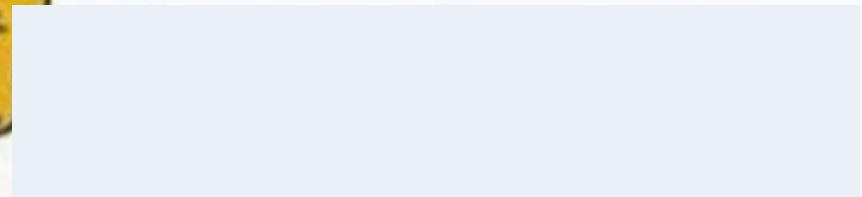
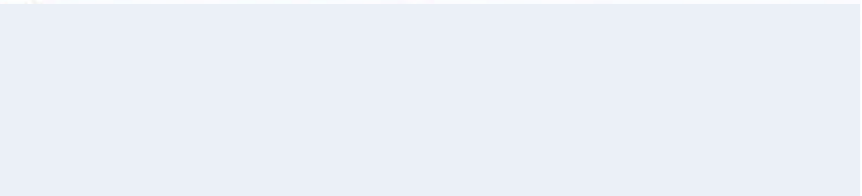
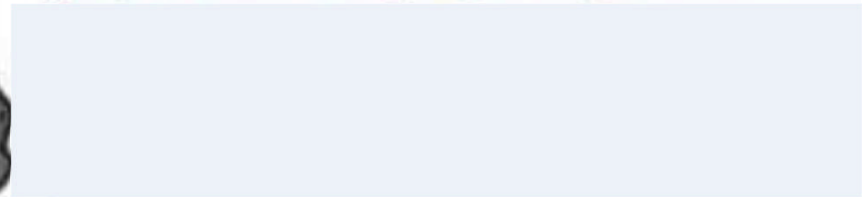
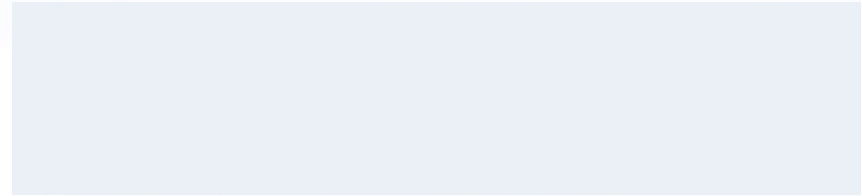
Sermon by  
Dr Aung



***“Anger management is a shockingly underdeveloped skill.”***

# ANGER MANAGEMENT

Angry with someone?  
Think before you talk..



# Inappropriate ways to deal with anger

(Gary Collins, *Guide to Christian Counseling*)

- a. *Holding back.***
- b. Turning inward**
- c. Acting out**

Does Jesus forbid every kind of anger in this passage?

**“In your anger do not sin.”**

**(Psalm 4:4 cf Ephesians 4:26)**

# About righteous anger:

- *“It is an anger of love, one that wishes no one any evil, one that is friendly to the person, but hostile to the sin”*  
**(Martin Luther)**

***“Anger is a divinely implanted emotion. Closely allied to our instinct for right, it is to be used for constructive spiritual purposes. The person who cannot feel angry at evil is a person who lacks enthusiasm for good. If you cannot hate wrong, it’s very questionable whether you really love righteousness.” (Psychologist David Seamands)***

- **Righteous anger hates the sin.**  
**Righteous anger is upset over sin and injustice.**



✓ **God got angry**

- In the OT, 82% of the occurrence of 'anger' or 'wrath' are used in conjunction with God.

- In the OT, God's wrath or anger occurs 375 times.

## **Jesus got angry (Mark 3:3-6)**

***Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”***

***4 Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.***

***5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.***

***6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. (Mark 3:3-6)***

**Vindictive anger is equivalent to murder  
(5:21-22)**

*"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."*

## Two Greek words for 'anger' in the NT.

*Thumos* – the flame which comes from dried straw.

*Orge* – (used here in 5:22) it is vindictive anger. The anger of a person who nurses his/her wrath to keep it warm till it completes the evil act.



***“Wedding dress  
for sale, never  
worn. Will trade for  
a pistol.”***



*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.*

*(5:22b)*

- **'Raca'** means **'brainless idiot,' a 'silly fool,' an 'empty-headed blunderer.'**
- The word **'fool'** is **'moros'** (cf 'moron')  
**'Raca' expresses contempt for a man's head – "You stupid!"**  
**'Moros' expresses contempt for his heart and character – "You scoundrel"**  
**(FF Bruce).**

# The judgments mentioned in different forms:

Suppressed,  
vindictive  
anger  
towards a  
believer (v 22)

**“subject to judgment”**

Expressed  
anger, calling  
a believer,  
‘Raca’ (v23a)

**“answerable to the  
Sanhedrin,”** the highest  
court in the land.



Calling a  
believer,  
“You fool”  
(or  
'moron')  
(v 23b)

“**in danger of the fire of hell**  
(**Gehenna**).” Gehenna was the  
valley of Hinnom south west of  
Jerusalem. It was a rubbish dump  
ever burning and a useless place  
equivalent to hell.

- There, **Ahaz introduced the fire worship to Molech** by burning his sons as an offering (2 Chr.28:3).
- **King Josiah turned this into a garbage place** to burn rubbish day and night (2 Ki. 23:10).

**Jesus uses a hyperbole - an overstatement**

***In the same way murder is judged, so will those who harbour vindictive anger towards another believer or anger expressed in slanderous words.***

***Anger, when acted out in our slanderous words and in our evil deeds, is equivalent to murder***

## Jesus gives 2 reasons why we must settle anger issue quickly:

- 1) ***It affects our worship of God (5:23-24) - "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."***
- 2) ***2. It is the wiser thing to do\_ (5:25-26)***  
***"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary 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 Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."***

***In your anger do not sin; do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold (Ephesians 4:26-27)***

## 3 more reasons why vindictive anger is wrong

***1. It hurts people.***

***'Anger' is one letter short of 'Danger'***

***2. It hurts our life***

***3. It hurts our relationship with God.***

***“Anyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer . . . .” (1 John 3:15)***

***Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. (1 Jn. 4:20)***

***“In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me.” (Matthew 25:40)***

# So why don't we reconcile quickly?

- 1. We feel like we are the good guys*
- 2. We give the impression that we are weak*
- 3. We stroke the sin of pride*

## **Review:**

**Jesus did not forbid all kinds of anger but only vindictive anger.**

**In our anger, we cannot call another brother with words like “You stupid idiot” or “You moronic fool.”**



**Follow Jesus' advice to settle matters as quickly as possible.**

**1. It affects our worship of God**

**2. It is the wiser thing to do**