

THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION

August 15, 2021 Matthew 5:21-26 by Bob Branch
The Power and Complexity of Forgiveness, part 15

BIG IDEA: God's Priority Is Reconciliation.

Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire.

Is anger always bad/sin/evil?

"Be angry, but don't sin'; don't let the sun go down on you while you're angry" **Ephesians 4:26** NTE

1. We are _____ with what we do with our anger.

"on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak" **Matthew 12:36** ESV

_____ where you let your anger to take you.

"Be quick to listen, but slow to speak. And be slow to become angry..." **James 1:19-20** TPT

²³ So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First **go and be reconciled** with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Reconciliation is INCONVENIENT!

2. God _____ unity, harmony and reconciliation more than worship!

"God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." **Col. 1:19-20**

You _____ and initiative.

"If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." **Romans 12:18** CSB (Hebrews 12:15)

²⁵ **Settle matters quickly** with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

3. Add _____—Don't wait long to _____.

Jesus says there are **CONSEQUENCES** of failing to take responsibility—others will!

"Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings" **Ephesians 6:12** TPT

IN PRACTICE:

1. _____, so you are not loaded-for-bear going into reconciliation. (Mark 11:25)
2. _____ that reconciliation is God's priority. (John 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:19)
3. **Humbly** _____ a conversation with the person. (Matthew 5:24)
4. **Be** _____ in throughout conversation. (Philippians 4:5; Proverbs 15:1)