



Chapter 5:21-26

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’

22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘*Raca!*’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘*You fool!*’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Observations & Discussion

1. According to Jesus a person could keep all 613 Mosaic Laws yet at the same time be guilty of breaking any or all of them! How is that possible?
2. What is the difference between the “letter of the law” vs. “the spirit of the law”? Can you think of an example where Jesus demonstrated the difference?
3. Throughout this section of Matthew’s Gospel Jesus repeatedly says: “*You have heard that it was said...*”. What does Jesus mean by that (i.e. where does it say “You shall not murder?”). Next, Jesus repeatedly says: “***But I say...***”. Why is that significant?
4. What do you think is the difference between the Pharisee’s definition of sin and Jesus’ definition of sin?
5. In vs. 23-24 who sinned—the one at the altar or the offended brother? In vs. 25-26 who is the guilty party—the person being taken to the judge or the “adversary”? So who should make the first step toward reconciliation?
6. Check out Proverbs 19:11 & Romans 12:18: how do these Scriptures figure into Jesus’ instructions here in Matthew 5?