

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:20

# Life in the Kingdom

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“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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“You are the light of the world” – Matthew 5:14a

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

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Love, Acceptance, and Forgiveness – 5:43-47



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Teaching About Anger and Murder

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Note: “those” is plural and not singular. Jesus is therefore not speaking of Moses or God.

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Sound familiar?

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Instead of providing a simple translation for them, the rabbis added their own interpretation to the text to the point the people could not tell the difference between the two.

It was the same tactic used by the Catholic church in the dark ages to keep the people ignorant of God’s Word and under the control of the church.

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Jesus was speaking of the traditions of men.

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Let’s look at what the Scriptures said about murder.

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The commandment is against the intentional killing of another human being for purely personal reasons, whatever those reasons might be.

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Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Genesis 4:8

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God made man in the image of Himself.



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1. They did not prescribe the Scriptural penalty of death.

2. God's character wasn't even considered.

3. Nothing was said about the inner attitude or heart conditions regarding murder.

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“But I say to you (contrasting, not with Scripture, but with the traditional teachings of the rabbis) that whoever is angry (to provoke or arouse with anger, wrath) with his brother (denotes unity, members of the same family, tribe, countrymen, nature) without a cause (or just, righteous cause) shall be in danger (to hold, be ensnared, liable of the punishment inflicted by a tribunal) of the judgment (court, tribunal, the college of judges).”

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Jesus cleansed the Temple – Matt. 21:12-13

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Faithfulness to Christ often demands righteous anger.

But Jesus is talking about selfish, brooding, simmering anger against a brother that we will not let die.

# Life in the Kingdom

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Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15



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Let's look at this verse in context.

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To slander a creature made in God’s image is to slander God Himself and is equivalent to murder.

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To call someone, “You fool” was to accuse them of being both stupid and godless.



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“To be angry is the basic evil behind murder; to slander a person with a term such as Raca is even more serious, because it gives expression to that anger; and to condemn a person’s character by calling him a fool is more slanderous still.”

John MacArthur

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What are you prepared to do about it?

