



The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 7 • APR 19

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What's something small that annoys you more than it should?

BACKGROUND

Today we will look at a passage which is part of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus addresses a multitude of people, including His disciples, about the Kingdom of God and how to live righteously. In this passage from Matthew, Jesus directly addresses the commandment not to murder, which is a significant part of the Mosaic Law. In this context, these people were familiar with the law of Moses. They were taught strict regulations and moral principles about how to behave, especially concerning their relationships with God and one another. Jesus does not simply list the rules we need to follow; He dives much deeper than that. He is not only concerned with what we do but also with what our hearts feel. The command against murder is about preserving human life and preserving the sanctity of relationships. By stating that we can become liable even by harboring anger, He urges us to confront the emotions that can lead to harmful actions.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:22

“...But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire...”

READ: Matthew 5:21-26



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Why do you think Jesus places anger and insults in the same category of seriousness as murder?
2. How does equating anger with murder align with other biblical texts where anger seems acceptable (e.g., John 2:15-17; Ephesians 4:26)?
3. What does Jesus’ instruction about leaving your gift at the altar reveal about how God views broken relationships?


DEEPER DISCOVERY

How do James 1:19-20 and Colossians 3:8, 12-13 align with what Jesus was saying here? How do they enhance it?




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God’s word.*

1. Why is contempt (“You fool”) so spiritually dangerous, and how does it show up in everyday life?
2. Jesus says that anger toward a brother or sister places a person “in danger of judgment.” How does this challenge the way we typically think about “serious” versus “minor” sins?
3. Think about a time when unresolved conflict affected your spiritual life, your prayer life, or your sense of peace. What did you learn from that experience?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. Is there someone you sense God prompting you to reconcile with? What might a first step look like?
2. How can we ensure that we are not just hearers of the Word, like the crowds, but also doers, actively applying Jesus' teachings?
3. What steps can we take to invite others, like the diverse crowds, to come and learn from Jesus in our communities today?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** James 1:19-20 (NIV)
My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)