

CHRISTIANS AND... RECONCILIATION
Matthew 5:21-26

This week's text and sermon deals with anger and conflict resolution.

Is there presently someone with whom you are angry? If so, how does that make you feel?

Is there presently someone who you know is angry with you? If so, how does that make you feel?

Do you think most Christians are presently in conflict with another Christian?

What causes conflict, anger and disagreement among Christians?

In this text, Jesus describes how anger builds and progresses: we are angry at someone → which leads to us viewing the person in a lesser/negative way → which leads to us questioning their character and relationship with God.

Have you ever observed, or experienced, that progression in times of conflict?

When, if ever, is it valid to judge some else's spiritual condition?

Why do you think anger builds and leads to increasingly more hostility towards others?

Read Matthew 5:23-24.

Discuss how Jesus tells us to respond when (i) our actions caused someone else to be upset at us or (ii) someone is simply upset at us.

Do you think proactively going to someone to reconcile is a natural/normal response for us?

Why do you think it is sometimes hard to go to someone to try to make things right?

Do you think it is fair that Jesus puts the burden on us to initiate the reconciliation, regardless of what caused the conflict?