

**WHO IS A MURDERER?**  
**SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES**  
**MATTHEW 5:21-26**  
**Satilla Baptist Church**  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

- a. We begin today a series of six statement by Jesus
  - i. “You have heard it was said by them of old...But I say unto you”
  - ii. Six Subjects
    - 1. Murder
    - 2. Adultery
    - 3. Divorce
    - 4. Speaking Truth
    - 5. Retaliation/Revenge
    - 6. How to Treat Friends/Enemies

**II. THE HEART IS THE PROBLEM (and the solution)**

- a. Verse 20, Jesus is explaining what He means by that statement in the next 6 examples.
- b. Example of Clock on wall in church didn’t keep time right. Preacher fiddled with it couldn’t get it to be accurate. Everybody talked about the clock that couldn’t keep time, finally the preacher put a note below the clock, “Don’t blame the hands, the trouble lies deeper.”
- c. *1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB95) But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*
- d. *1 Kings 8:39 (NASB95) then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,*
- e. *1 Chronicles 28:9 (NASB95) “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing*

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*mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts.....*

- f. Proverbs 16:2 (NASB95) All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives.*
- g. Revelation 2:23 (NASB95) ..... and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.*
- h. So in the Six passages Jesus takes 6 examples and moves to the “Heart” of the matter beyond the external “righteousness” displayed by the Scribes and Pharisees of His day.*

**III. THE DANGER OF ANGER (21-22)**

- a. Begins with the Law against murder. The first crime recorded in the Bible was a murder. Chicago murders, local murders, famous murders, unknown murders. Tara Grinstead, Jack the Ripper.*
- b. But who is a murderer?*
  - i. Satan is a murderer:*
    - 1. John 8:44 (NASB95) “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning,.....*
  - ii. Murder springs from the Heart*
    - 1. Matthew 15:19 (NASB95) “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.*
- c. Hatred is the Seed of Murder*
  - i. 1 John 3:15 (NASB95) Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

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- ii.* Not every kind of anger is wrong, but Anger that has a slow burn and turns into Hate.

**IV. THE POISON OF NAMES (22)**

- a.* Example: There's a tale told about a certain rabbi whose name was Simon Ben Eleazar, and Simon Ben Eleazar was coming from his teacher's house, and he'd just had a lesson at the feet of this great teacher, and he was feeling uplifted in the thought of his own scholarship, and he was so thrilled with his own righteousness, and his own goodness, and his own holiness. And as he was walking along he came across a very low, rather ugly common man who passed by and greeted him. And the rabbi did not return the greeting, but said, "You Raca, how ugly you are. Are all the men of your town as ugly as you?" To which the man replied, "That I do not know, go and tell the Maker who created me how ugly is the *creature He has made.*"
- b.* The Attitude of contempt for our fellow man
- c.* Word "Raca" is not easily translated but it simply implies contempt for someone else. When we lower the value of another human beings we have begun the path to murder.
  - i.* Gas Chambers did not begin in a high level Nazi meeting, it began in the hearts of people. Movie "The Eternal Jew". Jews are displayed as worthless people. Rats scurrying about about.
- d.* "You Fool" Our word "Moron". Really means a rebel. In essence it means to tell someone that they are worthy of hell, or to "Go to Hell"

**V. THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP (23-26)**

- a.* God will not receive our worship if we bring it with dirty hands. Hands soiled by defrauding our brothers. This is not a new principle:
  - i.* Isaiah 1:11-17

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- ii. Isaiah 58:1-10
- iii. *Jeremiah 7:4 Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these.' 5 "For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, 6 if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, 7 then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. 8 "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, 10 and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'? 11 Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes?*

**VI. CONCLUSION**

- a. Are you a murderer? It all depends on what your standards are. Does your righteousness exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees? Only through Jesus can we truly be righteous and have the power of the Spirit to walk in Holiness and Truth as He commands us to. Receive Him today.