

Every Sunday, there's a moment in this room when it gets very quiet. Heads are bowed. Communion is served. And sometimes, right in the middle of that quiet, a face comes to mind. It might be a brother you haven't really spoken to since spring. Or a sister who finds a reason to be across the room when you come in. Or somebody in your own family. What do we do with that moment? This morning Jesus is going to tell us that moment isn't a distraction. It's a summons.

I. The Anger Under the Act

A. Matthew 5:21: *"_____ that it was said to our ancestors,* ***Do not murder****, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.*

1. Jesus isn't loosening the Law. Notice what kind of anger He means.
2. Paul says: ***Be angry and do not sin.*** *Don't let the sun go down on your anger,* (Ephesians 4:26)
3. Anger that's kept. Brooded over. Fanned like a coal you don't want to go out.

B. Matthew 5:22: *Whoever _____ his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, '_____' will be subject to hellfire.*

1. *Insults* — the word underneath is *Raca*. Empty head. Nobody.
2. *You fool* — writes a person off.

II. The Interrupted Offering

A. Matthew 5:23: *So, if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there _____...*

B. Matthew 5:23: *…and there you remember that your brother or sister has _____,*

1. Matthew 18:15: *If your brother sins against you, _____ his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.*
2. Galatians 6:1: When somebody's caught in a sin, the spiritual ones go and restore him gently.

C. Matthew 5:24: _____ *your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, ...* The order is brother, then altar.

D. Matthew 5:24: _____ *and offer your gift.*

1. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29: *Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

III. While You're Still on the Road

A. Matthew 5:25: _____ *a settlement quickly with your adversary.* (*M*ake friends with him.)

B. Matthew 5:25: _____*... while you're on the way*.

C. Matthew 5:26: *Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last _____*. Unresolved conflict collects interest.

IV. Looking to Jesus: The One Who Was Wronged Came First

A. Romans 5:8, 10: *But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if, while we were enemies, we were _____ to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life*.

B. Jesus became the gift on the altar.

1. Ephesians 5:1-2: *Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.*
2. 2 Corinthians 5:19: *That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, _____ their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.*

C. People who've been reconciled to God at that price don't get to stay home from the walk across the room.

V. As We Close…

A. Romans 12:18: *If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

If you've never been reconciled to God, that's the first trip to make.

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus sends the person who is being accused in Matthew 5:23, instead of the one who has the complaint?

2. What makes it so much easier to remember what others have done to us than what we've done to them?

3. How does the Lord's Supper each Sunday work as our "altar moment," and what should we do when a face comes to mind during it?

4. What happens to a broken relationship the longer we wait, and why do you think Jesus says to settle it "quickly"?

5. Knowing God came to us first while we were still His enemies (Romans 5:10), who do you need to go to this week, and what will you say?

Answers

Quickly
Reconciled
Insults
You fool
You remember
Something against you
Not counting
You have heard
Leave
And then come
Go tell him
Reach
Penny