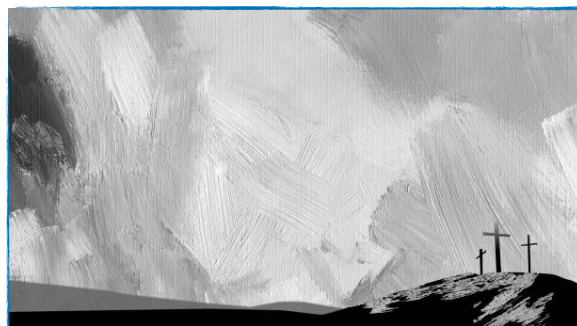


## Lesson #5: A Reconciled Life

When Adam and Eve sinned and fell from perfection, two immediate results were observed. First, they hid from God. Second, they turned on each other. Those dynamics tend to go hand in hand. People disconnected from God will fight, argue, and blame each other. The fabric of human relationships unravels.



When we are reconciles back to God through Jesus, this all changes. Jesus calls each one of the subjects of His kingdom to live a **reconciled life**. This is what Jesus taught us in Matthew 5:21-26.

### A change in delivery.

In the section of His kingdom manifesto that begins in Matthew 5:21, Jesus issues a series of 6 rapid-fire teachings that follow a similar format: “*You have heard that it was said... but I say to you...*”. By using this formula, Jesus was asserting three things.

#1 - People had been misinformed by Bible teachers.

#2 - Jesus had the authority to explain the true meaning of Scripture.

#3 - His standard for living would be higher and deeper than mere religion.

Jesus kicks off this section by teaching us that His followers are to live reconciled lives. Having been reconciled to God, He expects us to get reconciled to each other. We are to be agents of reconciliation in the world.

**A reconciled life is onerous where you hold no animosity in your heart for wrongs done by anyone and you make amends for your wrongs to everyone.**

## Agents of reconciliation rid their hearts of anger.

*“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.” —Matthew 5:21-22*

**Religious teachers taught it was wrong to murder people.**

**Jesus said it was wrong to stay angry with people.**

- Jesus is referring to ongoing, unrighteous anger.

***Righteous anger***  
*is aroused by the*  
***right reason,***  
*is expressed in the*  
***right way,***  
*and is intended for the*  
***right purpose.”***

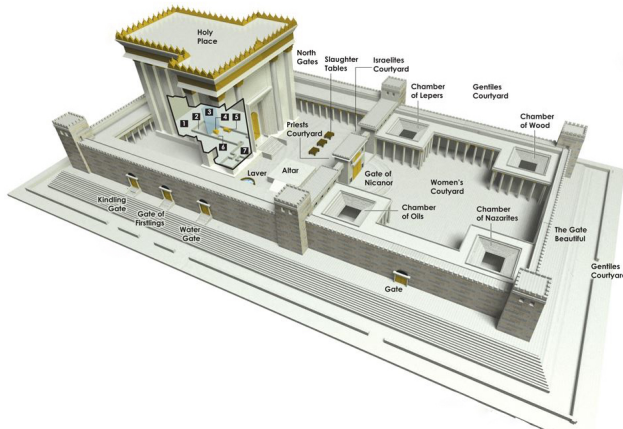
- This is the root cause of intentional homicide - and more.

- We are to rid our hearts of this kind of anger as soon as we realize we have it.

## Agents of reconciliation prioritize making things right with others.

*“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”* Matthew 5:23-24

**The scenario:** You are in the process of making an offering to God and realize you’ve wronged someone.



**The instruction:** Stop the offering process to reconcile with the one you’ve wronged, then resume worship.

**The principle:** If you want to be right with God, you need to be right with people.

## Agents of reconciliation are deferential in settling problems.

*“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.” Matthew 5:25-26*

**The scenario:** You have failed to keep a financial obligation and are being taken to court.

**The instruction:** Find a way to make your creditor happy before you get to court.

**The principle:** Do whatever you can to win the favor of people who are at odds with you.

- Personally, we will gain a greater measure of freedom.
- Relationally we will gain a greater measure of influence.

Closing observations.

1. Jesus assumes we won't be perfect.
2. We don't need to be perfect to impact the world for God.

### Reflect

- ◆ Do you have anger issues?
- ◆ Do you harbor ongoing anger toward someone in your heart?

### Do

- ◆ Go and make amends with anyone you ought to.