

Introduction: What are _____? Values voters first called this in 2004 were pro-life conservatives and others were identified as people who vote for the person who follows principle before the person, Some would say they are embodied in the _____ others would argue they are embodied here in Matthew 5-7.

In the verses that follow six times the phrase “you have heard that it was said, but...” Jesus in every case Jesus contrasts the people’s misunderstanding of the law with the true direction in which the law points, according to his own authority as the law’s “fulfiller” (in the sense established in v. 17). He makes no attempt to fence in the law but clearly declares the true direction to which it points. contra in contrast to. The “I” is emphatic in every passage.

What these verses reveal are some simple truths that will apply to the entire passage.

- All of behavior is based on _____.
- Behind every sin is a _____.
- Change always starts in the _____ (Romans 12:2) Think - Feel - Act
- To change means beliefs must _____
- To attempt to change without changing beliefs is _____
- Biblical term for changing beliefs is _____.
- Our minds are changed as the Holy Spirit _____ the Scriptures to our minds through hearing, meditating, memorizing, reading and applying Scripture. Part is supernatural work of God, part of it is our hard work.
- Changed behavior is the _____ of repentance.
- The Sermon on the Mount assumes all of the above as true.

Key thought: You must _____ anger or it will master you. Why must we master it?

- I. Because anger is _____.
- A. Murder is wrong because humans are made in the image of God. ““Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.” (Genesis 9:6, ESV)
The translation “kill” has led to all sorts of misunderstandings.
- B. The Bible is replete with examples of unchecked anger. “Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.” (Psalm 37:8, ESV)
 1. Cain and Abel- “but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.” (Genesis 4:5–8, ESV)
 2. Haman and Mordecai- “And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.” (Esther 3:5–6, ESV)
 3. Nebuchadnezzar and the three Hebrew children “Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king...” “Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.” (Daniel 3:13, 19 ESV)
- C. The Bible is replete with warnings of unchecked anger.
 1. It provides an opportunity for the enemy’s influence- “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26–27, ESV)
 2. It will escalate- “The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.” (Proverbs 17:14, ESV)
 3. It will spread to other people- “Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.” (Proverbs 22:24–25, ESV)

4. It will lead you defenseless- “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.” (Proverbs 25:28, ESV)

D. Anger is not always wrong. “And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”” (Matthew 21:12–13, ESV)

1. The reason for anger must be righteous.

2. The expression of anger must be under control- Jesus was not out of control because he was speaking coherently and purposely while overturning the tables.

II. Because insults are _____, “but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?” (James 3:8–11, ESV)

Some see an escalation here in both the offense and the punishment: anger-insults-fool and judgement-council (either the Sanhedrin or a local synagogue council)- hellfire. A better way to view it is three examples of anger and the seriousness of the consequences. The fact that courts are involved means that he is referring to something that is affecting the entire community and multiple families.

A. You are insulting your brother- you are part of the same family

B. Never underestimate the damage an insult can do. “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18, ESV) “My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.” (Psalm 57:4, ESV) “There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.” (Proverbs 30:14, ESV)

C. Words can also bring great healing. “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31–32, ESV) “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1, ESV)

III. Because when we make peace we represent the _____.

A. Reconciliation is important as demonstrated by the two examples from the temple and courts demonstrate. “What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another’s secret,” (Proverbs 25:7–9, ESV)

B. Reconciliation is a priority. We cannot separate our relationship with God from our relationship with others. “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10, ESV) “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.” (1 John 3:14, ESV) “If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1 John 4:20–21, ESV)

Conclusion: A path to reconciliation (from Peacemakers)

• _____ Discover why you said or did what you did? What lies are you believing. Pull the log out of your eye.

• _____ - Back to the gospel. You don’t beat yourself up, you respond to God’s forgiveness.

• _____ - Take personal responsibility. Instead of defending yourself, the gospel frees you to be weak and honest.

• _____ - Make a plan and have a respectful conversation.