

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S7E25
Dial M for Murder - Matthew 5:21-22

Description – Join us today as we look at Matthew 5:21-22, looking at Jesus’s teaching on Murder.

We’re back today, looking again at the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.

Before we get there, we want to remind you that the prayer book we’re using for the prayer emphasis we’re currently in at Long Hollow.

Prayer is a spiritual discipline that the more you practice it, the more it becomes natural to you. It’s like a foreign language, you have to practice it to get better at it.

Matthew 5:21-22

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister will be subject to the court. Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.

We’re entering a section here in the Sermon of the Mount where Jesus takes 6 instances or encounters in the OT Law and re-interprets them correctly.

Each of these segments starts with, “You have heard that it was said...” and then, “But I say to you...”

Jesus is going to start in the middle of the 10 Commandments, with Commandment #6, “Do Not Murder.”

Matthew 5:21 - “Judgment” - could also be referring to the final judgment.

Genesis 9:6

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

According to the Old Testament and the Rabbis, if it was an absolute life or death situation you could break one of the 613 laws.

But the 3 you could never break:

1. Murder
2. Idolatry
3. Adultery

Another question you often encounter, is there ever a justified murder? Or, is there ever a difference between Killing and Murder?

Murder would be where you're killing someone at random, or for your own gain, or even to cover something. Killing would be something like going to war and having to fight and kill for your country.

Jesus says here that Murder really comes from an overflow of anger or hatred coming from someone's heart.

The fruit of the sin is murder, but the root of the sin is anger.

If you call your brother a fool, in aramaic the word is "raka" - Has to do with one's intellect. Fool - behind this term is "Moras" which was used to describe someone's mental capabilities. Has to do with a person's actions.

When you slander someone, your brother, or call them a fool, an imbecile, or a moron, what you're really doing is slandering the one who created them.

That would lead us to ask, well, is there ever a time to call someone a fool?

There are times in scripture when Jesus and Paul call people "fools" or "foolish"

Matthew 23:16-17

¹⁶ "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever takes an oath by the temple, it means nothing. But whoever takes an oath by the gold of the temple is bound by his oath.' ¹⁷ Blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold?"

Galatians 3:1

You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

Some questions to reflect on:

Is your heart a headquarters for hatred?

Has your temper gotten the best of you recently?

Are you harboring anger in your heart over a situation or towards a person?