

MATTHEW

September 12, 2021

Matthew 5:21-26

READ

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QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Jesus quotes Exodus 20:13 as the first example of our righteousness exceeding that of the scribes & Pharisees (vv. 20-21). How is the Sixth Commandment to be understood in light of other passages like Exodus 32:27?

What is behind this commandment (Genesis 9:6)?

2. How is Jesus able to say, alongside Scripture, "But I say to you . . ." (v. 22)?
3. What may be Jesus' intention in His handling of the Sixth Commandment (v. 22)? How does He deepen & widen the understanding or scope of the commandment?

Does this make it easier or more challenging to keep the commandment? How so?

4. What do our emotions or attitudes have to do with sin or righteousness?

What do our words have to do with sin or righteousness? (How are our emotions/attitudes connected to our words?)

5. What makes anger so problematic? (When is anger, as a natural emotion, appropriate? When does it cross the line?)

What are the (ascending) consequences of mismanaged anger? How serious is it?

6. Identify three factors that restrain our anger (Ephesians 4:26-27). Cite the benefit of each.

How, based on Matthew 5:23-26, do we ensure that we stay within these boundaries? (How does Jesus express the urgency of this?)

7. When our emotions/attitudes and words are taken into account, how do we *really* do in regard to the Sixth Commandment? “How guilty am I?”

“My only hope is . . .” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Do I have a brother or sister who has something against me? Who is it? I will take the initiative to be the peacemaker *today* by . . .

I will not give the devil an opportunity this week, in my attitudes or words, by . . .