

LIFEGROUP NOTES: MATTHEW 5:21-26

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Preparing for God's Word

1. When was the last time you were really angry? What made you so angry? How did you express your anger?

Read Mt 5:21-26

2. How does Jesus' teaching on murder (5:21-26) differ from the traditional understanding? What is your first reaction to what Jesus says in v.22? Why?
3. We know that Jesus was sometimes angry (e.g., Mk 3:5). How would you explain the difference between His righteous anger and our (usually unrighteous) anger?
4. Why does reconciliation with another Christian take precedence over worshipping God (5:23-24)? How seriously do we take this teaching – and how do we show it?
5. See vv.25-26. Do you have this kind of urgency to put right a relationship if it has gone wrong? Why do we so often choose to live with “the elephant in the room” in the form of awkward or broken relationship? What is the danger of simply ignoring the problem when a relationship is going sour?
6. Notice that in vv.23-26 Jesus doesn't ask who caused the broken relationship – His concern is that we should take the initiative to mend it. Where might you need to act on this teaching in your present relationships? What holds you back? How can we help one another to overcome our hesitations and fears in seeking reconciliation?
7. See Romans 5:8-10. How might knowing that Jesus died for you while you were His enemy help you now to be reconciled to someone with whom you have a difficult relationship?

Responding in Prayer

Thank God for His healing and reconciling grace given to us in Christ. Ask Him to make you aware of any broken relationships to which you may be a party, and pray for wisdom and strength as you seek reconciliation.

Eddie Larkman, February 2017

