

WHO IS A MURDERER?  
(Matthew 5:21-26)

- I. Clarifying the DEFINITION of “Murder” (5:21; cf. Ex. 20:13)
  - A. Murder was the “ORIGINAL CRIME”
    - 1. Has its origin in SATAN (John 8:44)
    - 2. First occurred when CAIN killed ABEL (Gen. 4:9, 13)
    - 3. Was the first LEGAL prohibition (Gen. 9:6)
  - B. Not every KILLING is a MURDER
    - 1. Excludes judicial EXECUTIONS
    - 2. Excludes just WARFARE
    - 3. Excludes ACCIDENTAL manslaughter
    - 4. Excludes SELF-DEFENSE
  - C. Rabbinical interpretation was INADEQUATE
    - 1. Did not prescribe the DEATH penalty
    - 2. Did not acknowledge its ATTACK on GOD’S IMAGE
    - 3. Did not consider the HEART ATTITUDE of the guilty
  - D. Not every MURDER takes a LIFE

II. The Effect on Our VIEW of OURSELVES (5:22)

- A. Murder includes ANGER toward a BROTHER
- B. Murder includes CONTEMPT for a BROTHER
- C. Murder includes SLANDER of a BROTHER
- D. Therefore, there is NO ONE who is NOT a murderer
  - 1. Destroys any sense of SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS
  - 2. Demands recognizing the NEED of FORGIVENESS

III. The Impact on Our RELATIONSHIP with GOD (5:23-24)

- A. Guilt makes your offering UNACCEPTABLE to GOD (cf. 1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 66:18; Isa. 1:11, 16-17; Jer. 7:9-10)
- B. Reconciliation with your BROTHER can restore your fellowship with GOD
  - 1. Includes making right YOUR OFFENSES
  - 2. Includes resolving HIS RESENTMENTS

IV. The URGENCY of Addressing Our SIN (5:25-26)

- A. Avoid LEGAL JUDGMENT by seeking PRIVATE resolution FIRST (cf. Prov. 11:30)
- B. CONDEMNATION will require FULL PAYMENT
  - 1. Demonstrates the IMPOSSIBILITY of PERFECT righteousness
  - 2. Demands the GIFT of God's GRACE in CHRIST