

DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

→ **What about anger in Matt. 5:21-26?**

- The life of Jesus portrays moments of anger felt and expressed.
 - Jesus showed anger toward hardness of heart, disciples hindering people from bringing the children to him, moneychangers, and Pharisee's way of handling the law and how their lives were hypocritical.
 - READ Mark 3:1-5; John 2:12-17; Matt. 21:12-13; Matt. 23
- So, what is Jesus warning against in Matthew 5:21-22?
 - Jesus is teaching against uncontrolled anger. Anger that overtakes us and leads us down a path of domination and destruction.
 - READ Ephesians 4:25-32.

→ **Jesus shows us a better way – Go, be reconciled.**

- READ Matthew 5:24 – this is the climax of the teaching...ironically, it is often the part of the teaching we ignore or avoid.
- We should be careful not to avoid or minimize this teaching. The word "something" in verse 23 is specifically geared toward someone who is angry with you.
- So, reconciliation is not likely something that happens to us, as it is something we must actively pursue.
- On Sunday Micah mentioned that Jesus seems to be referencing back to the Cain and Abel story in Genesis 4.
 - In Cain and Abel's day, people believed their crops would grow if they made a faithful sacrifice to God.
 - Cain believed his crops were not growing well because God did not approve of his sacrifice.
 - If Cain had gone to his brother and asked for help, his anger and sinful act of murder could have been avoided.
- God's way of deliverance includes humility, peacemaking and forgiveness, all characteristics of the reign of God.
- *In what areas or relationships in your life do you need to seek reconciliation?*