Different: How The Church Lives – Part 3 of 10

“A Disciple and The Value of Relationships”

Matthew 5:21-26

Today we are continuing our message series where we are looking at how followers of Jesus are different in the way we live life in the world. This morning we come to the 3rd message about how we are different in our relationships with each other.

How many of you have been angry with someone in a way you can remember in the last year? In the last few months? In the last few weeks? Jesus talks about what to do with our anger and how to deal with people when there is a breakdown in our relationships. Matthew 5:21-26….

1. The law of God says that murder is wrong because it purposefully takes an innocent human life.

The reason behind why God says you shall not take a person’s life is that all human life is inherently valuable because we are created in the image of God (See Genesis 1:26-27).

Matthew 5:21-22….

2. There are more ways to take a life then by actually murdering someone.

The word, *raca* probably means brainless idiot, silly fool, empty headed blunderer. And so, whenever we have anger going on which results in insults, Jesus says we are taking that person’s life from them.

Another way we can take a person’s life from them is by denigrating their character. He says, anyone who says *you fool,* which is the Greek word from which we get the word moron, is taking insult to a higher level as it is criticizing a person’s moral character. It is taking a person’s name and reputation from them. Today it would be like calling a person a hypocrite -- someone who has no integrity.

Matthew 5:23-24….

3. The way to be a life giver rather than a life taker is by pursuing reconciliation with those who feel I have wronged them.

Matthew 5:25-26….

4. Because conflicted relationships are such life takers, I should be…..

A story and the lessons from it:

1. Some people have no concept how difficult reconciliation attempts can be, or how tenaciously they might have to keep at it to get the relationship reconciled.

2. You don’t know what the future of a mended relationship might hold.