

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

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Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #24—The Sermon on the Mount-Kindred

Matthew 5: On the “Extraordinary” of Christian Life

A. Treatment of Others (Matthew 5:21-26)

- Only those who perceive the law to be the word of Christ can fulfill it.
- True knowledge of the law lies solely in knowing Christ to be the Lord and the fulfiller of the law.
- But in this unity with the law he is considered an enemy by the false understanding of the law. (Galatians 1:13)
- The life of one's brothers or sisters was granted by God and is in God's hand, (21)
- Only God has power over life and death.
- Murderers are liable to the judgment they themselves exercise.
- The protection of God's command extends not only to brothers and sisters who belong to the church-community but beyond.
- [Includes the godless, racially different, despised, rejected brother (or sister)].
- The life of a brother or sister is a boundary for Jesus' followers which may not be crossed.
- But anger already crosses that boundary.

- It is crossed even more by words bursting out of us in haste (insults), and it is crossed finally when we intentionally deride someone else (you fool).
- Every anger attacks the life of the other person; it begrudges others their lives; it craves the other's destruction.
- The disciples should not even know what anger is, because anger is an assault on God and the other person.
- The angry words bursting out of us, which we take so lightly, reveal that we do not respect the other person, that we view ourselves to be superior, and that we thus value our own lives more than the other's.
- Such words are an injury to a sister or brother, a thrust to the heart.
- They intend to make other people despise them, as well.
- Anyone who is angry toward a sister or brother, who aims harsh words at them, who scorns or slanders another in public, has, as a murderer, no place before God.
- Their offerings, their worship, their prayers cannot please God.