

ANGER

LESSON 4: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Frank and Harry are two Christian partners that grew a service company together over many years and are close friends. Harry is nearing retirement and wants to sell his part of the company to Frank. They agree on a price but Harry has additional stipulations that make the sell price even more than they agreed on. Frank feels this is unfair but agrees to the deal as he has ideas as to how to legally skirt the additional stipulations and additional cost. Frank acts on these cost saving initiatives and doesn't pay the cost of the additional stipulations. Harry files a lawsuit against Frank for the money he feels he is owed. A bitter fight ensues and is ultimately settled. Frank and Harry no longer have any relationship.

- Q. What shortcomings can you see in Frank and Harry?
- Q. How could Frank and Harry have handled this situation better?
- Q. What potential damage is done here and to whom?

MATTHEW 5:21-26

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison.²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Jesus has defined what the character of his followers should be and now he is giving us a number of examples of what that character lived out in our hearts and minds will look like. He starts with low hanging fruit – murder. Murder would be the most offensive sin we could conceive and he uses that image to impress on us that when we even think in our hearts malicious thoughts it is the same as murder! We think we are doing well because we focus on our doing and we are not murdering people but it is more about who we are in Christ and this goes to our core. We are all guilty of murder...but there is hope for us in Christ!

- Q.** Where can anger lead us?
- Q.** When is anger good or bad? What kind of anger is this passage referring to?
- Q.** To whom does this passage apply?
- Q.** What implications does this passage have considering the Holy Spirit who lives in us?
- Q.** According to v.25-26 why do you think Jesus would agree with arbitration today?
- Q.** Which beatitudes character traits are exhibited in the one who reconciles?