



The Other Six | Close Gaps: Working for Reconciliation | Week 5 | October 14, 2018

Matt 5: 21-26, Matt 18:15-17, Luke 12: 57-59, Colossians 3:12-15

Opening: In the beginning “Let us make man in *our* image” (Gen. 1:26) tells us we will have relationships. We are image bearers of the Trinity who live as one in perfect relationship—we are relational beings.

Context: Two weeks ago we explored telling our STORY as a dimension of our “Other Six” days of the week. Last week we saw a vivid summary of the attributes of a Disciple, surely a way to aspire to BE in our “Other Six”. We do these things in the context of relationship. What happens when those relationships BREAK? What is our guide? What is our model?

The “broken bridge”

In Matt 5: 21 Jesus begins with murder. Can you imagine the emotions—rage, malice, destruction—that go with murder? Probably not. The Jews Jesus is talking to revered the Law. And they, like us, probably had a hard time contemplating murder. But Jesus brings the Law into “real life” because he knew there were relationship “breaks” that were unhealthy. Just as Jesus links adultery with lust (Matt 5:27) he is linking murder with anger. We are familiar with anger and the impact it can have on relationship.

Read vs. 21-22. What is Jesus saying? Are there comparisons? What is he saying is like what? Are all these things equal? Is there a progression? What are the actions? The consequences?

The WAY we handle Anger:

The meaning of “**Raca**” is a contemptuous judgement. When you are angry at someone (for we all get angry) how do you handle it? Are you a “yeller”? How was anger handled in your home growing up? The consequence “Raca judgement” is answering to the Sanhedrin, so it must have been public and vocal. Then there is the dismissive “**you fool**”. Why do you think the consequences are higher here? Dan talked about “letting Hell into your heart”. Is Jesus distinguishing between an angry verbal explosion and a lasting “I’m done with you” relationship break?

Relationship as a priority

“Therefore, be reconciled” is a summary of vs 23-26. What things does Jesus identify that are less important than reconciliation? Why is reconciliation so difficult? What is required? What gets in the way? How big a factor is Pride and Winning?



Our Motivation

Thinking back to God's Story two weeks ago, we saw we are living the chapter of Redemption. We are being redeemed from our sin and **RECONCILED** to God. Read Col. 3: 12-15. Bear with.... forgive.....let peace rule..... Why do we do these things? Why do we NOT do them?

The GAP CLOSING model

- Be aware of your relationships, thank God for each one of them
- Be diligent to address tension early, don't harbor "hell in your heart"
- Be a PEACE-**MAKER**, make the goal understanding & reconciliation
- Pursue GAPS, understand them and stay in relationship

Dan states: "Every time you work hard at trying to establish a real peace between you and someone from whom you are separated by **misunderstanding, ignorance, injustice, or conflict**, you show yourself to be a child of your Heavenly Father."

Discuss how **Gap Closing** differs from what you see every day. What would it take to change that? What is the first thing you see here for you to change? How can we pray for you as you pursue that this week?

Practice of the Week: Reflect on RECONCILIATION

Pick a relationship in your life that is strained or broken. Consider how that happened, what were the circumstances, the consequences and the damage that has occurred. Write it down in your journal. How much of what you just listed was temporal—of this world? Now imagine the eternal impacts. Have you, or the other person, been carrying "hell in your heart" hatred? Has there been a stiffness against that person that is different for you, unusual as a feeling for you? What is God saying to you about that stiffness? What is one thing in this situation for which you can ask forgiveness? What is one thing for which you can give forgiveness? Can you take a step to re-open the relationship?

Family Formation: "In your anger do not sin" Eph 4: 25-28

Kids get angry. It's an honest emotion. Tell a story to show the difference between harboring anger (the devil's opportunity) and resolving anger (speaking truthfully).

Additional Resources: *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide for Resolving Personal Conflict.*

By Ken Sande; Baker Books

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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