

# **Jesus On Anger**

Matthew 5:21-26

1. The Lesson (v21-22)
2. Application #1: Priority—the Brother (v23-24)
3. Application #2: Intensity—the Accuser (v25-26)

## FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Tell about a time when you were really angry. What happened? What did you do? If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently?
2. The Pharisees looked at the commands of Scripture and built a fence around them. Jesus looked at those commands and showed us how to get at their intent. Read v21-22. How do we know Jesus isn't just building "bigger fences, further out"? How does the "so" of v23 link v22 with what follows? How can we make sure we're not treating Jesus' words as fences around the Law?
3. Why would reconciliation with a brother take priority over worship? See 1 John 4:19-21. What happens to our worship when we're at odds with a brother or a sister? Why don't we do something about it? How does that relate to what Jesus said in v22?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-8. What's the issue at hand? What are people in the Corinthian church doing about it? What does Paul suggest instead? What's at stake? Do you have to be vindicated all the time? How can you let go of offenses?
5. Think back to your earliest days as a believer. How would you describe your behavior in those days? How would you describe your heart? Did you have trouble forgiving people? How is it that hearts indwelt by the Spirit of God become hardened over time? What needs to be done about it?
6. Can you think of someone who has something against you, whether it be a brother/sister or an accuser? Is there something God is calling you to do about it, based on this passage?