

## The Law of Moses

- “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’”
- Note: “murder” is a better translation than the KJV “kill” because they were to practice:
  - Capital punishment (Ex. 21:12)
  - War (Deut. 20:10, 18)

## Jesus: "But I say unto you"

- "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

## Jesus is not condemning righteous anger

- God has been angry (Ex. 32:22)
- Jesus has been angry (Jno. 2:13-25)
  - We are to be angry (Eph. 4:26)

What THEN?

“The Law condemned murder; Jesus is condemning the heart’s motives, which flare up in selfish anger, scorn and reviling speech.”

## How do we determine if it's righteous or unrighteous anger?

- Ask: What is its origin?
  - Pride?
  - Enraged selfishness?
  - Hatred for sin?
  - Zeal to honor God?

## How do we determine if it's righteous or unrighteous anger?

- What does this anger make us want to do?
  - Seek to injury the person?
  - Seek only the good of the person?

## He is condemning Unrighteous anger!

- Anger that comes from an unrighteous heart! When:
  - They don't do what WE want them to do
  - They do what WE don't want them to do
  - They do it in a way that WE don't want them to
  - They don't do it fast enough for US
  - WE have been offended
  - WE are frustrated over something we can't change

## He is condemning Unrighteous anger!

- Anger that is expressed with contempt for the other person:
  - “Raca” (Senseless, stupid, shallow-brained)
  - “Thou Fool” (Judges his moral character; guilty of great crimes)

## How can we control our anger?

- Some say don't -- just explode
- Realize the consequences (Vs. 22-24)
- Listen
  - "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (James 1:19)
- Speak the truth in love
  - "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)