

## Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:21-30 Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2015

All 6 of these antitheses begin with a saying similar to this.

These 6 antitheses (21-48) provide the application of what Jesus said in v. 20 – “**unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees...**”

### 1. Anger

6<sup>th</sup> Commandment  
Ex 20:13; Deu 5:17 ->

21“**You have heard that it was said** to those of old, ‘**You shall not murder;** and whoever murders will be liable to **judgment.**’ <- Deu 16:18; 2Ch 19:5 *legal proceedings*

One has not conformed to the true righteousness of the kingdom simply by refraining from homicide.

This saying is *emphatic in each of the 6 antitheses* ->

#### Brother

Likely much broader than just siblings.

22 **But I say to you** that everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be liable to **judgment**; whoever insults his **brother** will be liable to the **council**; and whoever says, ‘**You fool!**’ will be liable to the **hell of fire.**

**Illustration #1**  
Temple Worship  
A Brother

-If we are truly concerned about our anger and hate, we will also be concerned when we engender them in others.

*Raca* - Aramaic word for imbecile, fool, or blockhead

#### God’s “Judgment” / “Council”

No human court is qualified to try a case of inward anger.

#### Hell of Fire (22, 29, 30)

\*Hell = γέεννα (geenna)  
\*Comes from the Hebrew *gê-hinnōm* (“Valley of Hinnom”)  
\*Ravine south of Jerusalem once associated with the pagan god Moloch and his rites (2Ki 23:10; 2Ch 28:3; 33:6; Jer 7:31; Ezek 16:20; 23:37), prohibited by God (Lev 18:21, 20:2-5).  
\*When Josiah abolished these practices, he defiled the valley by making it a dumping ground for trash and the corpses of criminals (2Ki 23:10)  
\*The valley came to symbolize the place of eschatological punishment (cf. 1 Enoch 54:12; 2Bar 85:13; cf. Mt 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33.)

**Illustration #2**  
Judicial Setting  
An Adversary

-Compare with Lk 12:57-59 -Likely NOT parallel accounts  
- In the ancient world debtors were jailed till the debts were paid

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that **your brother has something against you**, <- looking at anger and hate from a different direction.

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift.

25 **Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court**, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have **paid the last penny.**

### 2. Lust

Anger of Jesus: Mt 21:12-19; 23:17; Mk 3:1-5  
Was Jesus a hypocrite? (Eph 4:26-27; James 1:19-21)

7<sup>th</sup> Commandment  
Ex 20:14; Deu 5:18 ->

27“**You have heard that it was said**, ‘**You shall not commit adultery.**’

One has not conformed to the true righteousness of the kingdom simply by refraining from adultery.

Could also be interpreted “so as to get her to lust”

#### Eye

Num 15:39; Prov 21:4; Ezek 6:9; 18:12; 20:8-11. Eccl 11:9

28 **But I say to you** that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her **in his heart.**

#### Hand

\*Why the hand in sexual sin?  
\*Could be that lust is viewed like theft just like adultery.  
\*Also possible that this is a euphemism for the male sexual organ.  
\*Could simply be a metaphor for action.

29 If your **right eye** causes you to sin, **tear it out** and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into **hell.**

30 And if your **right hand** causes you to sin, **cut it off** and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into **hell.**

**Tear it Out / Cut it Off**  
\*Compare with Mt. 18:8-9  
\*We are to **strike at the root of such unholy pursuits, and cut off the occasions which tend to stimulate them.**

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**You Shall Not Murder (6<sup>th</sup> Commandment)**

**Exodus 20:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

**Deuteronomy 5:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> “ ‘You shall not murder.

**Legal Proceedings**

**Deuteronomy 16:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

**2 Chronicles 19:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city,

**Hell of Fire**

**1147** γέεννα (*geenna*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 1628 + 2183; Str 1067; TDNT 1.657—LN 1.21 **hell**, Gehenna, a Hellenized transliteration of the Hebrew, “Hinnom Valley.” A ravine just SSW of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. A place of trash fires and perpetually burning rubbish, hence the figurative extension of a place of eternal punishment (Mt 5:22, 29; 10:28; 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43; Lk 12:5; Jas 3:6)<sup>1</sup>

**1067.** γέεννα *geenna*; of Heb. or. [1516 and 2011]; *Gehenna*, a valley W. and S. of Jer., also a symbolic name for the final place of punishment of the ungodly:—hell(12).<sup>2</sup>

The expression “fire of hell” (*geenna tou pyros*, lit., “gehenna of fire”) comes from the Hebrew *gê-hinnōm* (“Valley of Hinnom,” a ravine south of Jerusalem once associated with the pagan god Moloch and his disgusting rites [2 Kings 23:10; 2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:6; Jer 7:31; Ezek 16:20; 23:37], prohibited by God [Lev 18:21, 20:2–5]). When Josiah abolished the practices, he defiled the valley by making it a dumping ground for filth and the corpses of criminals (2 Kings 23:10). Late traditions suggest that in the first century it may still have been used as a rubbish pit, complete with smoldering fires. The valley came to symbolize the place of eschatological punishment (cf. 1 Enoch 54:12; 2Bar 85:13; cf. Matt 10:28; 23:15, 33, and 18:9 for the longer expression “gehenna of fire”). Gehenna and Hades (11:23 [NIV mg.]; 16:18) are often thought to refer, respectively, to eternal hell and the abode of the dead in the intermediate state. But the distinction can be maintained in few passages. More commonly the two terms are synonymous and mean “hell” (cf. W.J.P. Boyd, “Gehenna—According to J. Jeremias,” in Livingstone, 2:9–12).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Carson, D. A. (1984). Matthew. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 149). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

**Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:21-30**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2015**

Moloch

**2 Kings 23:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

**2 Chronicles 28:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

**2 Chronicles 33:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger.

**Jeremiah 7:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.

**Ezekiel 16:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter

**Ezekiel 23:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. With their idols they have committed adultery, and they have even offered up to them for food the children whom they had borne to me.

**Leviticus 18:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

**Leviticus 20:2–5 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. <sup>3</sup> I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. <sup>4</sup> And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, <sup>5</sup> then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.

**Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:21-30**  
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Josiah Abolished These Practices

**2 Kings 23:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

Symbol of Eternal Punishment

**1 Enoch 54:12**

<sup>12</sup>In those days shall the mouth of hell be opened, into which they shall be immersed; hell shall destroy and swallow up sinners from the face of the elect.

**2 Baruch 85:13**

<sup>13</sup>There is the proclamation of judgment to corruption, ' regarding the way! to the fire and the path that leads to the glowing coals."

**Matthew 10:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Matthew 18:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

**Matthew 23:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

**Matthew 23:33 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?

Judicial Setting With an Adversary

**Luke 12:57–59 (ESV)**

<sup>57</sup> "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup> As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. <sup>59</sup> I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny."

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**Anger of Jesus**

**Matthew 21:12–19 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

<sup>14</sup> And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, <sup>16</sup> and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

“ ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies  
you have prepared praise?’”

<sup>17</sup> And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once.

**Matthew 23:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?

**Mark 3:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” <sup>4</sup> And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup> And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

**Ephesians 4:26–27 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil.

**James 1:19–21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

**You Shall Not Commit Adultery**

**Exodus 20:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

**Deuteronomy 5:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> “ ‘And you shall not commit adultery.

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**Eye**

**Numbers 15:39 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.

**Proverbs 21:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Haughty eyes and a proud heart,  
the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

**Ezekiel 6:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations.

**Ezekiel 18:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore the pledge, lifts up his eyes to the idols, commits abomination,

**Ezekiel 20:8–11 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt.

“Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. <sup>11</sup> I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

**Spiritual Surgery**

**Matthew 18:8–9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

<sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.