

**Cultivating**  
**a Christian Character**

***Studies in***  
***The Sermon on the Mount***  
***Matthew chapters 5-7***

## ***The story so far ...***

- ***God's roll call of those to be congratulated  
for displaying the right characteristics 5.3-12***
- ***The influence such people will have 5.13-16  
stopping the rot, dispelling the darkness***
- ***Our attitude to God's Word 5.17-20  
based on Jesus' understanding of it***
- ***The righteousness that qualifies us for heaven  
not our own, but Christ's gifted to us  
2 Cor 5.21; Gal 3.11; James 2.10;  
Rom 3.21-22;  
and God's own Spirit to live within us  
Ezek 36.26-27***

***Our life is ripe for renewal ...***

***not human conventions, or social etiquette  
but Spirit-empowered holiness***

***Anger Management***

***Matthew 5.17-20***

***The human heart is the heart of the problem  
we need a new one!      Mark 7.15,21***

**1. Why murder is so wrong, v21**

- ***Humans have been made in God's image  
Gen 1.26-27; 4.9; 9.5-6; Ex 20.13  
murder destroys God's image  
murder isn't unforgivable, but it's costly***

## 2. Why our anger must be kept in check, v22

- *hatred may wish people dead 1 John 3.15*  
*every human is worthy of respect 1 Pet 2.17*  
*Jesus was angry with stubborn hearts*  
*Mark 3.1-5*  
*but our anger is often selfish*
- *anger doesn't create righteousness*  
*James 1.19-20; Mat 6.33*
- *anger has no place in public prayer 1 Tim 2.8*
- *anger must be removed from our lives*  
*2 Cor 12.20; Eph 4.31; Col 3.8*
- *anger must be short-lived Eph 4.26-27*

### 3. Why contempt is so wrong, v22

- *every human is to be respected 1 Pet 2.17  
made in God's image; Christ died for them*
- *contempt reveals an absence of God's Spirit  
Eph 1.13; 2 Cor 5.16; James 3.9-12  
as Christians, we look at people differently  
our words reveal our heart Mat 12.34-36*

### 4. Why reconciliation must be sought, vs23-24

- *we must be right with others  
for our worship to be acceptable to God  
it's up to us to seize the initiative  
Eph 4.3; Ps 133.1,3; Phil 4.2*
- *it takes two to effect reconciliation Rom 12.18*

## **5. Why we must be reconciled to God, v25-26**

- ***don't end up on God's rubbish tip Lk 12.4-5***  
***he is humanity's Judge Gen 18.25***
- ***Jesus has died to save you! Isaiah 40.1-2***  
***be reconciled to God through him***  
***2 Cor 5.19-6.2***