

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 12, 2025

- 7) What does Jesus teach us in this passage about reconciliation? What is Jesus teaching about the importance of reconciliation?
- 8) What's Jesus emphasizing through His illustration of settling matters quickly?
- 9) Many people will read this passage on its surface without context of other passages and think this means I can lose my salvation. Is it possible to lose your salvation if you pass away before settling conflict with someone else or is Jesus's point greater than one small issue?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Ask God to show you if anger, bitterness, or offense has taken root in your heart.
- 2) Is there someone you need to step toward reconciliation with this week—make the call, write the message, have the conversation.
- 3) Spend time thanking Jesus that He didn't just obey the Law—He fulfilled it, so that you could live in freedom through His righteousness.

Thread: Without my heart, I will misunderstand the Jesus path.

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose."

Matthew 5:17 NLT

What's referred to as the Law and Prophets has purpose. They reveal:

God's Will

- Right and wrong define God's character.
- How we live a pleasing life before Him.
- How we keep our hearts healthy.
- God wants a Covenant relationship with any who call on Him.

God's path to redemption

- Divine justice.
- Divine restoration for our brokenness.

The Law and the Prophets act as a *"tutor to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified through faith."* **Galatians 3:24 NASB**

*"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved." (Consistency of God throughout the ages. "The same yesterday, today and tomorrow") "So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. "But I warn you—unless your **righteousness is better** than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!"* **Matthew 5:17-20 NLT**

Paul's admission

"I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin."

Romans 7:19-25 NLT

“‘You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!’”

Matthew 5:21-22 NLT

Anger: Provoked to wrath, to remain in a state of anger. Associated with anger: To roar, rage, to foam.

Helpful verse “...don’t sin by letting anger control you.’ Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.”

Ephesians 4:26-27 NLT

Do you get angry?

What’s the problem with anger?

Is anger controlling you?

Are you angry?

“If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.”

Matthew 5:22-26 NLT

Challenge:

Will I accept Jesus’ teaching about anger?

Will I offer Jesus my heart?

Do I have something against someone? Will I forgive?

Does someone have something against me? Will I ask for forgiveness?

<https://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/anger-part-1/>

<https://www.dougbrittonbooks.com/anger-part-2/>

Homework

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 5

Message Date 10/12/2025

MY STORY

- 1) If you could teleport anywhere but only as fast as a brisk walk, where would you go most often?
- 2) You can instantly make one everyday task disappear from your life forever — what are you deleting?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read: Matthew 5:17–26 (NLT)

- 4) What does it mean that Jesus “fulfilled” the Law and Prophets?
- 5) What does verse 20 mean by “*unless your righteousness is better than the teachers of the law and the Pharisees*”? What is better righteousness according to Jesus?
- 6) Why does Jesus equate anger to murder? What are some types of anger that people justify because it’s “not that serious”?