

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

February 16, 2020

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Matthew 5:21-26

(The Message Translation)

21-22 “You’re familiar with the command to the ancients, ‘Do not murder.’ I’m telling you that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder. Carelessly call a brother ‘idiot!’ and you just might find yourself hauled into court. Thoughtlessly yell ‘stupid!’ at a sister and you are on the brink of hellfire. The simple moral fact is that words kill.

23-24 “This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.

25-26 “Or say you’re out on the street and an old enemy accosts you. Don’t lose a minute. Make the first move; make things right with him. After all, if you leave the first move to him, knowing his track record, you’re likely to end up in court, maybe even jail. If that happens, you won’t get out without a stiff fine.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again in. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Is there any unsettled anger in your heart? Can you feel it? Can you name it? How long has it been living there? How do you handle it?
3. Are there people in your life that you have unresolved conflict with that needs to be reconciled? What steps can you take?

COMING UP: LENT

Learn more about the meaning of Lent and how you can practice it, such as taking a “digital fast.” Resources, guides, devotionals, and Ash Wednesday service information available at:

southelkhorncc.org/lent

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