



“The Heart of Reconciliation”

July 18, 2021

Matthew 5:21-26

[21] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ [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. [23] So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [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.

Psalm 56:2–4

*[2] my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many attack me proudly.
[3] When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
[4] In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?*

Psalm 56:8

*[8] You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your book?*

1. Please share a time when you witnessed heart-felt reconciliation between opposing individuals or parties (from your own life, movies, etc). What factor(s) caused them to find reconciliation?

2. Read Matthew 5:21-22. That word for “insult” (vs 22) in Aramaic is “Raca”, which is a derogatory term that literally means “empty head.” The word “fool” comes from the Greek word *moros* from which we get our English word “moron” and was also a very offensive put down in Jesus’ day. “Raca” and “fool” are terms not so much of anger but of *contempt*. What are some ways you have shown contempt, or in other words, devalued or dehumanized a person in anger?

3. Read Psalm 56:2-4;8. Jesus longs for us to have a life of joy, freedom, and wholeness. In order to experience this life we need to be committed to seeking reconciliation with others. As difficult as reconciliation is, what are some truths and/or ways that can cause us to fundamentally see someone who has hurt you, or you have hurt, differently?

4. Are there any broken relationships in your life? Are there any relationships that you feel you have abandoned rather than move towards reconciliation? Take some time to pray about these relationships and what it means for you to go and seek reconciliation with them.