

# "CURING BAD BLOOD"

Matthew 5:21-26

**Main Idea:** Since God values His people and their relationships with each other so highly, He strictly forbids any attitudes, words, or behavior that damage those people or relationships, and insists that any damage be repaired immediately.

Clarifying the command, "Do not murder" (21-22)

The traditional understanding and consequences

The physical act of murder

The judgment for this offense is severe

The intended meaning and consequences

Anger is murder because it kills a person's dignity

Defamation is murder because it kills a person's dignity

Calling a person an "Idiot"

Calling a person a "Fool"

Prioritizing conflict resolution (23-24)

Precedence over worship

Procrastination prohibited

Diffusing conflict ASAP (25-26)  
Containment of the issue

Ensuring that bridges are not burned