



Sermon Discussion Questions  
10-06-24

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Sermon Series: The Friends You Need  
Week 4: Class 301 - Mending a Broken Friendship

1. ICE BREAKER: Have you ever broken something that was very valuable to you? Were you able to fix it? If so, how? Describe what you did to repair your broken item.
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Matthew 5:21-26:

*<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

*<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*

*<sup>25</sup>“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.*

What comes to your mind as you read this Scripture? Discuss your first impressions and observations. If you’ve read this before, what is standing out to you now, as you read it again?

3. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is reframing a principle from the Mosaic law, and challenging the legalistic interpretation of it. He does this by using the framework, "You have heard that it was said...but I tell you..."

What is the principle from the Mosaic Law that Jesus begins with here? How does he reframe this principle? In what ways does this 'raise the bar' of keeping the law and expose the heart behind it?

4. This teaching of Jesus is hard, and it's tempting to try and water it down to make it easier to swallow. In fact, the original King James Version added a phrase that was not in the original Greek, to make it say anyone who is angry without a cause is subject to judgment.

How does the addition of this phrase change the teaching of Jesus? Why do you think the translator added that phrase? Which part of this teaching is the most challenging to you?

5. In the message, we learned that "the spirit of a heart that leads to murder is the same spirit of the heart that starts in being angry at a friend." One commentator even said, "rash anger is heart murder."

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss the impact of anger on your soul, and on a friendship. What are the practical things that we can do when we feel anger to deal with it in a healthy way?

6. Reread Matthew 5:23-24. Talk about the observations that were made in the message about radical reconciliation.

How in the verse does it show that reconciliation is inconvenient? Is on us? Is time-sensitive? Is more important than religious activity?

7. Mending a broken friendship is difficult. However, God wants us to do the hard thing, put aside our pride and have the difficult conversation. Author Lisa TerKeurst said, *"Relationships often die not because of conversations that were had but rather conversations that were needed but never had."*

Discuss this quote. How have you found this to be true in your own life and your relationships? What often stands in our way of having a difficult conversation? What are some ways that we can get better at addressing issues in our relationships?

8. Read John 17:20-23, *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you*

*are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

What is Jesus’ prayer for us, ‘those who will believe in me through their message’? How does our unity impact the world? What does mending relationships and friendships have to do with unity?

9. The steps to mend a broken friendship are: 1) Talk to God first; 2) Take the initiative; 3) Separate the problem from the person; 4) Listen for understanding; 5) Own your part; 5) Seek reconciliation.

Talk through these steps. Which ones are the most difficult to take? Why are they important? Talk about the difference between resolution and reconciliation.

10. PRACTICE: Have someone in the group put on some reflective music (we often use William Augusto!).

Spend a few minutes reading and meditating on Colossians 3:13, *“ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

Thank God for the ways He has forgiven you. Then, ask if there is anyone in your life that you need to forgive, and how you can mend that friendship.

Share with your group as much as you are comfortable.