

Treasure Hunt

- Where does “the judgment” for murder (and anger) take place?
- What does the Bible say about joking insults?
- What is “the council”?
- How is calling somebody a fool worse than calling him “Raca”?
- Who is an example of the fool in the Old Testament?
- How do the stories in vv. 23-24 and vv. 25-26 differ from the principle in v. 22?
- Why should we try to help people not be angry with us?

The Structure of the Sermon

	Setting	4:25-5:2	7:28-8:1
Consequences →	Blessings & Warnings	5:3-12	7:13-27
	Our Mission	5:13-16	
	Law & Prophets	5:17-19	7:12b
Conduct → {	Toward Man	5:20-48 It was said ... but I say	7:1-12a
	Toward God	6:1-18 Be not as the hypocrites	6:19-34

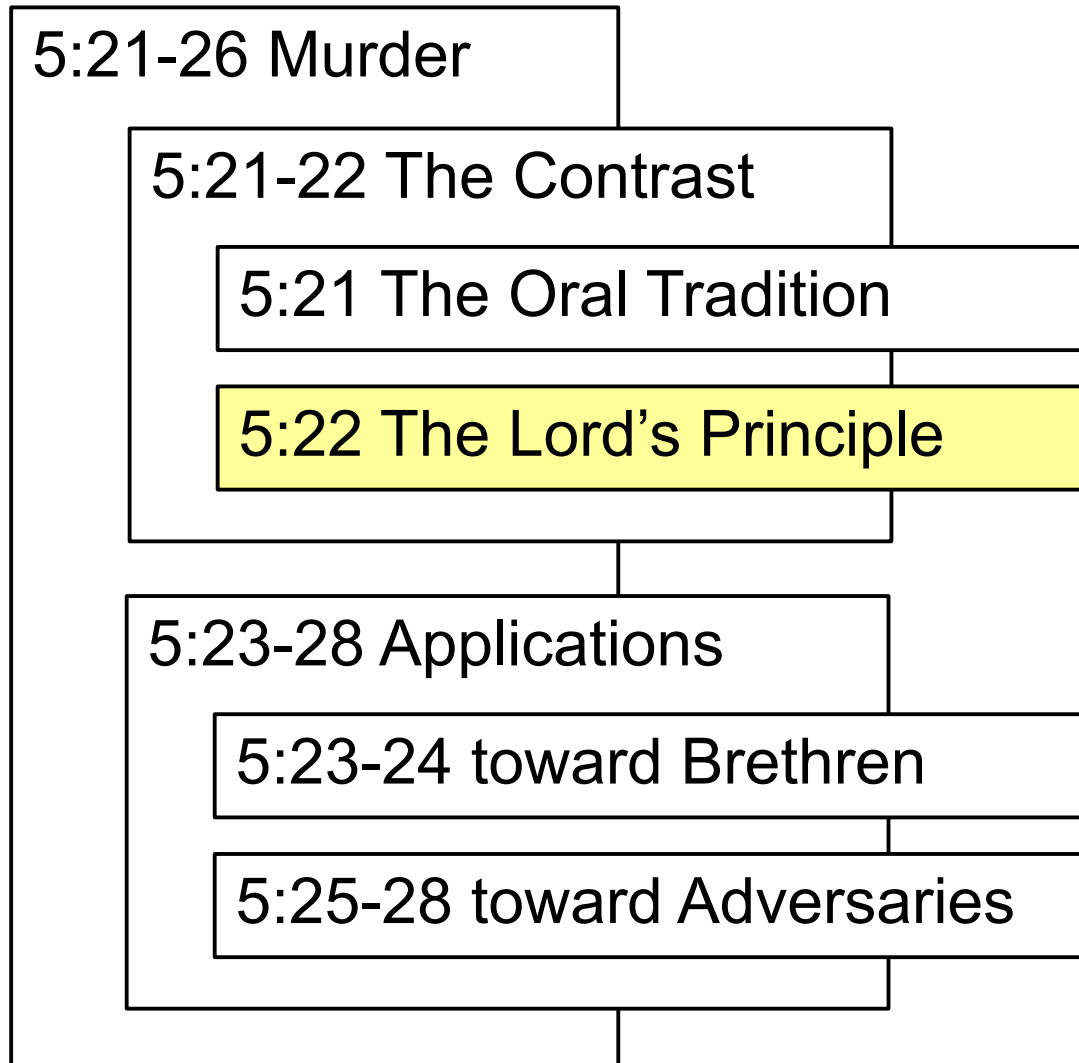
The Structure of 5:21-48

The Manward Contrasts

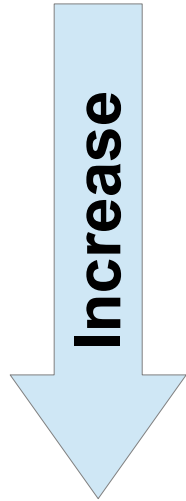
	21 Murder	27 Adultery	31 Divorce	33 Oaths	38 Revenge	43 Love
Ye have heard that	x	x		x	x	x
it was said	x	x	x	x	x	x
to them of old time	x			x		

- “it was said” → The Oral Law (Jewish tradition)
- “it is written” → The Written Law (the OT)

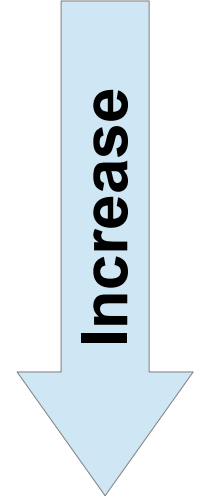
5:21-26, Murder



Climax in the Lord's Teaching



The Offense	The Penalty
whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause	shall be in danger of the judgment:
and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca,	shall be in danger of the council:
but whosoever shall say, Thou fool,	shall be in danger of hell fire.



What is “The Judgment”?

Num 35:11 Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. 12 And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before **the congregation** in judgment.

These were Levitical cities. Why?

Lev 10:11 that ye [Aaron and his sons] may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Jer 18:18 for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet.

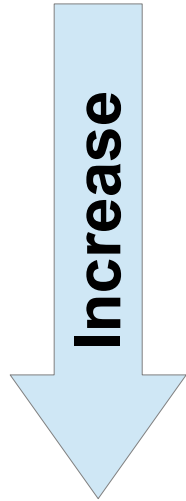
The actual course of the judgment:

Deu 19:11-12 But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities: 12 Then **the elders of his city** shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

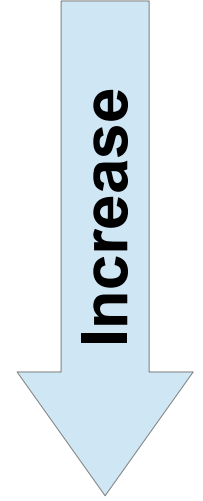


<http://www.searchingthescrptures.net/images/maps/040a.jpg>

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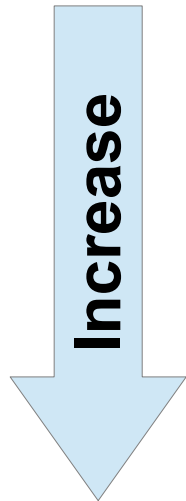
Jesting in the Bible

Eph 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor **jesting** **ευτραπεια**, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

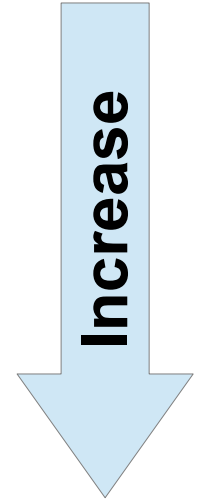
Pro 26:18 As a mad *man* who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So *is* the man *that* **deceiveth** [**dealeth slackly with**] his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

Ecc 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: *so doth* **a little folly** him that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.

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Who is a “Fool” μωρος ← נבל?

Deu 32:6 Do ye thus requite the LORD, O **foolish** people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

Isa 32:5 The **vile** person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful. 6 For the **vile** person will speak **villany**, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

Remember the man called Nabal (1 Samuel 25):

1Sa 25:3 the man was churlish and evil in his doings.

1Sa 25:30 [Abigail:] And it shall come to pass, **when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee**, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; 31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

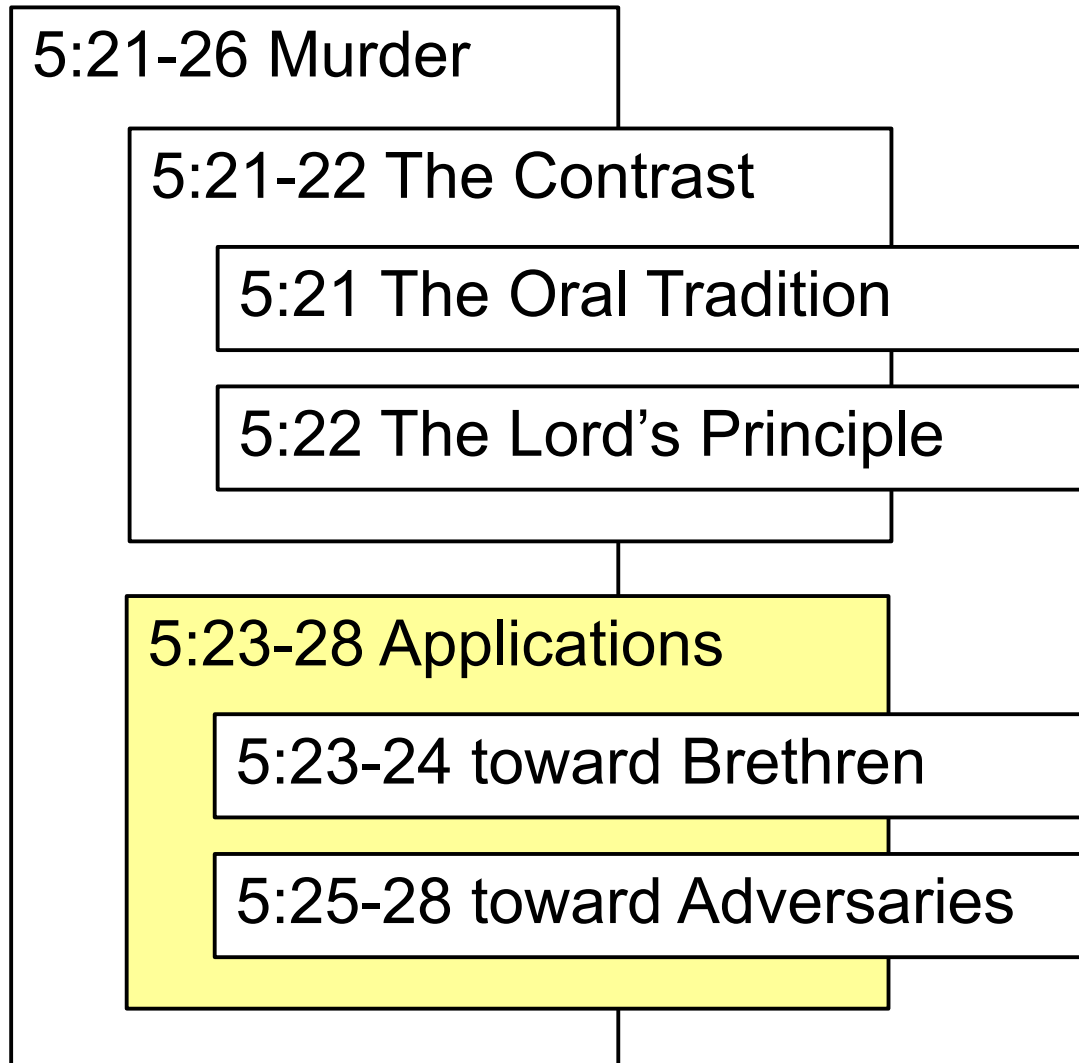
1Sa 25:10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who *is* David? and who *is* the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that **break away every man from his master**.

Is it ever right to say this?

Mat 23:17 Ye **fools** and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
... 19 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

1Co 15:36 Thou **fool** ἄφρων, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

5:21-26, Murder



Who Offended Whom?

- 23 “thy brother hath ought against thee”
- 25 “thine adversary ... deliver thee to the judge

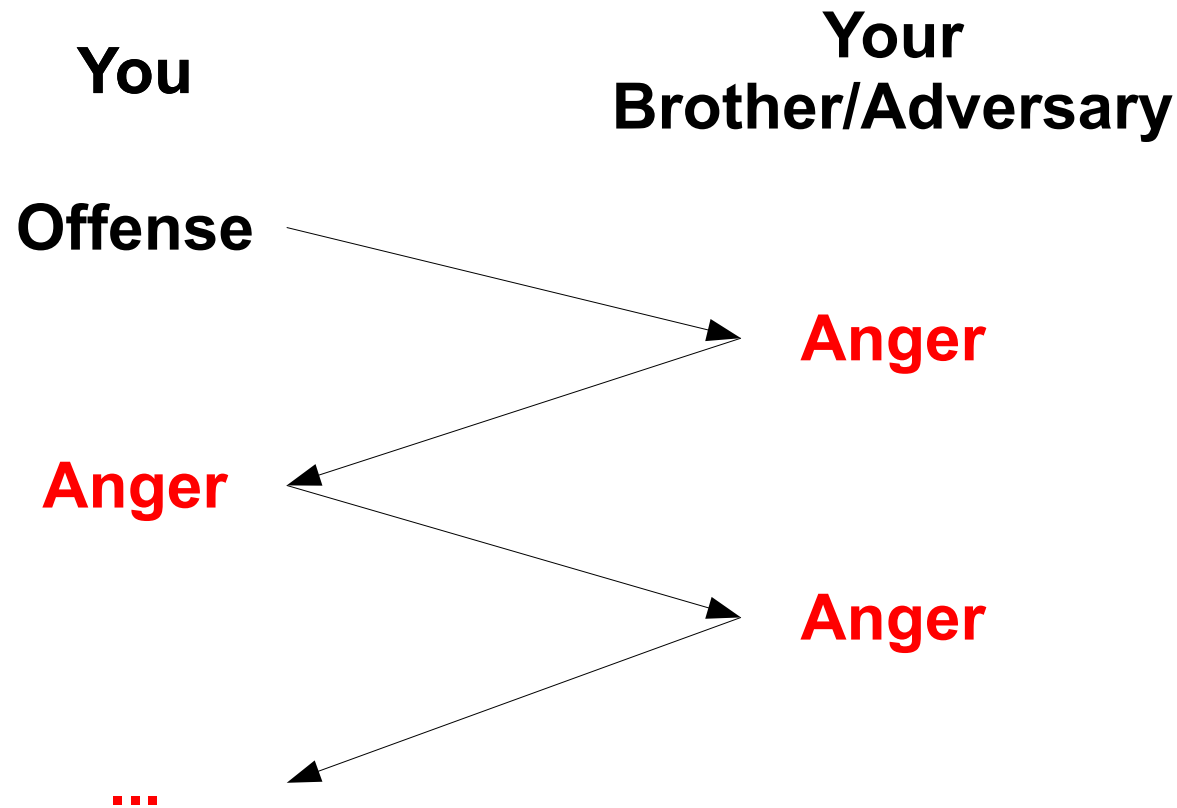


Rom 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.

1Co 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

The Bigger Picture

- No points for “Daddy, he hit me first!”
- I need to break the spiral wherever I can



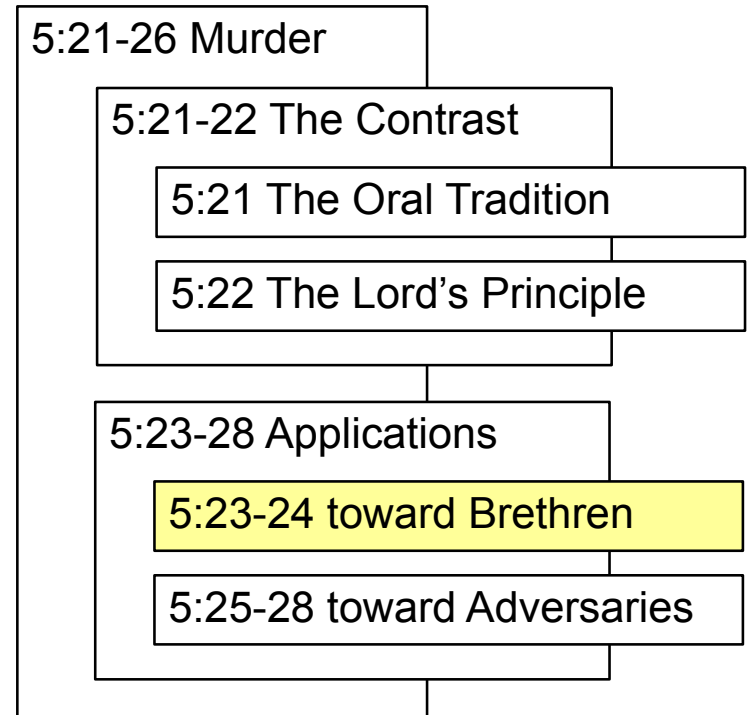
23-24, Defusing Anger in Worship

Someone might be angry with me:

1Co 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup.

I might be angry with somebody else:

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone:



25-26, Defusing Anger in Daily Life

Another instance of the story:

Luke 12:58 When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, *as thou art* in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

Later NT echoes:

Heb 12:14 **Follow peace with all men**, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, **live peaceably with all men**. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

