Above the Hate

Ephesians 4:26-27; Matthew 5:21-24

Sermon Outline

A. Before the Sun Sets (Ephesians 4:26-27; Matthew 5:21-22):

1. Angry - This is when someone is provoked to become full of anger so that they are impulsively and passionately enraged. This is not allowing for revenge that would be sin (Romans 12:14-21). Paul is commanding us to allow ourselves to be full of anger even if it is impulsive or passionate.
   
a) Key verse is verse 22: “that is reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lust of deceit.”
   
b) James 1:19-20 – “This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

2. Angry - We are made in the image of God and God got angry on a number of occasions in the scriptures, Jesus was angry and turn the tables upside down and wiped those who were wrong, so anger is viewed as a natural emotion therefore it must be managed and defined as to what is appropriate and what is not.

3. Sin - To sin here is to knowingly continuously violate the standards of God as Satan continuously does. This word is representative of active evil.

4. Do not let the sun go down – Paul commands us to continuously work at not allowing this anger to last long because it can create damage and become vengeful.

5. Anger/wrath – We must not let this impulsive, provoked state of being upset no matter what is done to us, extend for long periods of time.

6. Do not give - We are commanded to not continuously put ourselves in a position of being in the permanent possession of the Devil. We cannot allow ourselves to become a tool the Devil can continually use.

7. Devil – Paul uses the term Devil, not Satan, Evil One, Beelzebub, serpent, Lucifer, Temper or Dargon. Paul purposefully says Devil because when we become the permanent possession of the Devil, we can become slanderous and divisive. This is what Paul goes on to say further in this passage in verse 31.
8. **Devil** – Devil means Slanderer, a divider and one who seek to destroys Christ name.

   a) **Angry with his brother** – To be angry means to habitually keep being angry with another believer.

   b) **"You good-for nothing"** - To say 'good-for nothing' is like saying the person is 'stupid.'

   c) **'Fool'** – Means that the person is a persistent rebel.

   d) **"You good-for nothing"/ 'fool'** – Angerly name calling brings judgment from God.

   e) **"You good-for nothing"/ 'fool'** – To constantly name call is to not abide in God’s Word (John 15:6).

   f) **"You good-for nothing"/ 'fool'** – When we repeatedly don’t abide in the Word Christ cuts us off (John 15:6).

   g) **"You good-for nothing"/ 'fool'** – To be cut off is to be out of fellowship with God (1 John 1:5-7).

**B. Build a Bridge (Matthew 5:23-24):**

1. **Therefore** – With all the above going on when a person comes to worship God with this unresolved Christ now provides a way for it to be resolved because the brother is a part of the Christian community. They would be before God in court and without this being settled, they come to God for worship.

2. **Therefore** – Sinful anger is not allowed in the presence of God (1 Corinthians 11:27-34).

3. **Therefore** – God’s sanctuary is a place of reckoning.

4. **If you are presenting** – "To continuously bring or bear to a gift (an expression of honor) before the presence of God.

5. **If you are presenting** – The heart of a sincere worshipper consistently brings an offering (Mark 12:41-44).

6. **Remember that your brethren** - Someone who shares the same spiritual father and is committed to the same values and is a part the community life.

7. **Remember that your brethren** – Anyone who is saved is our brother or sister.

8. **Remember that your brethren** – God reminds us of unsolved issues (John 16:7-11).

9. **Remember that your brethren** – A person who does not love does not know God (1 John 4:7-11).

10. **Has something against you, accordance** – To accept in accordance with a charge' to accept a complaint against someone for a legal review (based on the Mosaic Law).

11. **Against you** – Against means a legitimate claim as defined by the Word.

12. **Against you** – Focusing on the issue factually helps to manage anger and Devil (slanderer).

13. **Against you** – Fact, faith, God's structure then our feelings curbs anger (James 1:19-20).
14. **Leave** – Most go to the brother committed to total restoration before God so that this person does not stand guilty before God.

15. **Offering** - An expression of honor as a gift to God based on the commands of Moses not the traditions of the elders - A place for making gifts or offerings – 'offering box' (see 6.141). For all of these put some of their abundance into the offering boxes’ Luke 21:4. According to tradition there were thirteen such offering boxes in the Temple and the receptacles leading down to the boxes were made in the form of trumpets. As a result, the sound of coins falling into the boxes were rather conspicuous.

16. **Go first** – This is the greater priority since we are before the very presence of God.

17. **Go first** – Healthy relationships are a priority to God (Matthew 22:36-40). Loving one another is constantly repeated in scripture.

18. **Reconcile** – As we learned last week, we must confront the issue.

19. **Reconcile** – Must go to the brother in the case of mutual hostility for the purpose of having mutual concession to make peace. Applies to a quarrel in which the fault may be two-sided or one-sided. (Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 6:13).

20. **Reconcile** – The purpose is to seek peace (Romans 14; 15:1-7); may not gain peace.

21. **Reconcile** – It is not about winning or resolving the issue as it is honoring God.

22. **Come present your offering** – To continuously bring or bear to a gift (an expression of honor) before the presence of God. The offering is now acceptable (Mal. 2:13).

23. **Come present your offering** – Make it a habit, having acceptable worship keep us focused (Malachi 3:13-16).

24. **Come present your offering** – Sincere worship keeps us before God and away from Satan’s influence.