

Gospel Centred Reconciliation - Matthew 5:23-26

The Christian distinctive that Jesus was driving home in the Sermon on the Mount is not that Christians don't get angry/don't get divorced/don't cheat/don't worry etc but that they do these things because they are under the gospel of grace.

Two parables designed to convey theological truth not complex arguments about how to do life:

Resolving conflict is more important than worship – leave your gift and be reconciled.

Settle your disputes as a matter of urgency – take immediate action.

Points to Ponder

- 1 Why do we say that the Christian distinctive is living under the gospel, not simply avoiding “bad behaviour” and colouring inside the lines? What does it mean to “live under the gospel”? [This question is getting at the fact that we are not simply interested in behaviour modification but transformed hearts.]
- 2 Share stories about conflict that you've seen resolved in your own life or the lives of others. How do these two parables about the importance of seeking reconciliation as a matter of urgency speak to you?
- 3 Why don't we seek reconciliation? [pride, fear, laziness?] What can be done to help with this?
- 4 What does seeking reconciliation *actually* look like? How do we do it?
- 5 Why is it important that we seek reconciliation for the glory of God rather than because we “don't like an atmosphere”? How does the gospel (the truth of all that we have in Christ) affect our approach to reconciliation?
- 6 Imagine if our church became a beacon of excellence for conflict mediation. What would it take for this to happen?!
- 7 Pray for one another, especially if there are areas of hurt that have emerged. Pray that you take the initiative to reconcile with God whilst there is still time!