

## *Welcome to Worship*

Today's text begins with the command "**You shall not murder**" from the sixth of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, but Jesus extends it to 'anger.' As we think about the human tragedy in the world, we realise that so much of it can be drawn back to anger. Anger is the emotional and physical reaction that moves us to address a situation that we find intolerable. It's part of the intense emotion that comes with being a human being. We were created with the capacity for anger. Anger isn't evil.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for anger occurs 455 times and 375 cases refer to the anger of God. God does get angry. Jesus also got angry at times when people got hurt or God's house was dishonoured. Paul wrote, "**Be angry but do not sin.**" We ought to get angry about certain things - that motivates us to overcome injustice and extend mercy.

In the text, what Jesus says is to deal with our anger before it leads us to violence, hatred and humiliation. God will work a miracle with our anger, if we will let it go. I guess today's teaching might challenge our assumptions and even the message may disrupt our lives because it seems to be impossible standards. However, the good news is that same Jesus who commanded these seemingly impossible standards is the one who forgave an adulteress, a thief on the cross and a disciple who had denied ever knowing him. The Jesus who called us to be perfect is the same one who paid the penalty on the Cross for the sins of imperfect folks like you and me.

... *If-Woong*

Today's scripture readings are Deuteronomy 30:15-30  
and Matthew 5:21-26.