

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Saturday, February 11th

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder;’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council and if you say ‘ You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.” (Matthew 5:21-22)

As we listen to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he challenges us on the way we understand our relationship with God. Jesus challenges us in how we try to live in our relationship with God and with one another. Jesus says the commandment is we shall not murder. Well most of us can feel pretty comfortable about living up to the letter of this commandment. But then Jesus expands on the intent of the commandment. When we call someone a fool or stupid, we are guilty of wounding the other. Jesus is not content to let us or another live in the letter of the law but not the intent to love. Jesus' love is not based on a technicality of the letter of the law. Jesus knows you. Jesus loves you always, even when we have sinned against God and against another. Jesus loves you with a love that claims you and never walks away. No one, not even you can wrestle out of Jesus' love for you. Jesus love for you is real and he calls you into a real relationship based on his love for you and for the other. Jesus loves us in all our messiness and he makes us new, filling us with his love so we can live in love.