

Pastor Randy's short devotion for Monday, February 13th

“You have heard it that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother or sister is liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool.’ Will be liable to the hell of fire.” (Matt. 5:21-22)

This is from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Right before these verses, Jesus says that he has come to fulfill the law, then he says our righteousness needs to exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees or we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Then in case we or even the Pharisees feel comfortable with their own righteousness, we have the above verses which challenge how firm a foundation we think our righteousness is. We are pretty comfortable that we have not murdered anyone. Then Jesus raises the bar, if anyone has insulted a brother or sister or call them stupid or a fool is liable to judgment. Suddenly the foundations of our righteousness has slipped out from under our feet like a California mudslide. The thing is, Jesus knows us. Jesus knows our hearts, our words and deeds. Jesus knows we are sinners. Jesus knows we feel comfortable with the letter of the law of not murdering someone, but not the intent of not hurting someone. Jesus doesn't want a fake relationship with you based on a fake righteousness. Jesus really loves you, with all your brokenness and goodness. Jesus fulfilled the law with his love taking on our sin and death and gives you his righteousness. Jesus' love for you is real, as he loves the real you.