

# Matthew 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

## Analysis

Jesus equates anger with murder in principle. The Greek 'raca' means 'empty-headed' or 'worthless'—a contemptuous insult. Calling someone 'fool' (moros) questions their moral character, not just intelligence. Such contempt makes one liable to hell fire (Gehenna), showing God's serious view of interpersonal sin.

## Historical Context

Gehenna referenced the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem, used as a garbage dump with continual burning. It became a vivid image for eternal judgment. The progression from 'judgment' to 'council' to 'hell fire' emphasizes escalating seriousness.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you speak about people you disagree with or dislike—with contempt or compassion?
2. Why does Jesus consider verbal contempt and character assassination as seriously as physical murder?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγὼ δέ λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὄργιζόμενος τῷ  
I But say unto you That whosoever G3588 is angry G3588  
G1473 G1161 G3004 G5213 G3754 G3956 G3710

ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ εἰκῇ ἔνοχος ἔσται τῇ κρίσει·  
brother G846 without a cause in danger shall be G3588 of the judgment G2920  
G80 G1500 G1777 G2071

ὅς δέ ἀν εἴπῃ τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ Ῥακά ἔνοχος  
whosoever But G302 shall say G3588 brother G846 Raca in danger G1777  
G3739 G1161 G2036 G80 G4469 G1777

ἔσται τῷ συνεδρίῳ· ὅς δέ ἀν εἴπῃ Μωρέ  
shall be G3588 of the council whosoever But G302 shall say G2036 Thou fool G3474  
G2071 G4892 G3739 G1161 G3474

ἔνοχος ἔσται εἰς τὴν γέενναν τοῦ πυρός.  
in danger shall be of G3588 hell G3588 fire G4442  
G1777 G2071 G1519 G1067 G1067 G4442

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 2:9** (Parallel theme): He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

**James 3:6** (Parallel theme): And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

**Matthew 10:28** (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Titus 3:2** (Parallel theme): To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

**Matthew 18:35** (Parallel theme): So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

**Romans 12:10** (Parallel theme): Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

**1 Peter 3:9** (Parallel theme): Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

**Psalms 109:3** (Parallel theme): They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.

**Matthew 18:21** (Parallel theme): Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

**1 Peter 2:23** (Judgment): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: