

I think that the bigger part to do with it. Here is a man who hates somebody else. He is pretty disgusted with what the other person says--he is filled with hatred so he reaches out and kills this person. Here is another man who is equally angry and he would like to kill the other person but he figures if he does, they will put him in prison and he thinks of all the pleasures he will miss and his life might be endangered so he says that he will forget it. I will hold back from it and perhaps I will seek some way to hurt him in such a way that people won't know. Which is the more culpable? In God's sight it is the attitude of the heart that is vital and not the external act.

Note what the Lord said--If you are angry with your brother, without cause you are in danger of the judgment; whoever says "Thou fool" shall be in danger of hell-fire. Does that mean by saying those particular words? No, that means an attitude of heart. It means an attitude of detestation and hatred of \_\_\_\_ and the person who has this attitude of fear of consequences to carry out what he thinks, is just as guilty as the other person in the sight of God. Disliking our brother, particularly the Christian brother because of selfish motives or irritation of his attitude towards us makes us just as guilty and it is just as wrong but we just have sense enough to keep from doing the overt act, but it is just as wrong as the person who reaches out and does the overt act. It is the attitude of the heart and not the overt act that is vital. The attitude of sin--it is the attitude that determines it. It is not that this sin is guilty and that sin guilty but it is the attitude of the heart--the attitude of looking out for No. 1 and the no-care attitude of others. That might show itself to other peoples in that way which might appear ~~at~~ to others as something terrible or it may show itself in another way so that others won't even be able to see it. Only God can see the heart. Right at this point I might mention one facet that one might not think of so commonly in this connection. We find in I Sam. 12--we find the account of how Samuel came to Saul and Saul had disobeyed God. Saul had turned against God. Saul was leading the people into iniquity and into sin. And in that situation Samuel came to him and told him that God was bringing serious consequences upon the land. God was going to punish Saul and the people. Here is a nation that is turned against God and Samuel after giving him this message says in v. 23--"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you:--in ceasing to pray for these who were turning to