

第6戒と「兄弟に対する怒り」

伊藤明生

ABSTRACT Akio ITO, “The Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue and Anger against Brothers.” The first Antithesis of the Sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5:21-26) begins with the citation of the Sixth Commandment, ‘You shall not murder’, introduced by a rare formula, ‘You have heard that it was said to the people of old’, which seems to presuppose a first-century synagogue setting. A summary statement of the biblical punishment prescribed for murder follows the citation. The biblical prohibition of murder, which is explicitly stated in Gen. 9:6 after Noah's flood, is firmly rooted in the biblical view of human beings as created in God's image. Jesus introduces his teaching by emphasizing his own authority: ‘But I say to you . . .’ Then he announces that getting angry or calling people ‘fool!’ deserves the same punishment as murder. Since Jesus simply states it succinctly without explaining the reason, this saying looks cryptic at first sight. Although anger and verbal abuse are usually not prohibited by civil law, they can deny the humanity of those concerned and so can be considered as ‘spiritual’ or ‘mental’ murder although they cause no physical damage. Actually they are just as damaging as murder, or sometimes even more so. The biblical understanding of human beings as created in God's image provides us with the key to a proper understanding of Jesus' teaching in the first Antithesis. Such an understanding of Jesus' initial saying shows how it leads to the three subsequent exhortations to be reconciled with one's enemies (5:23-26).