



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

DERICK BINGHAM B.A.

There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 28TH JANUARY 1992

Subject: 'Overcoming Anger And Lust'

Matthew 5:17-30

1. **Christ's mission:** He was not setting Himself up as an authority over against the law. He had come to fulfill it. He was implying that everything in the law and the prophets culminated in Him. (Vs 17-19).
2. **Christ's message:** Our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees (v 20; see Mark 7:10-13). They cared only for the outward act, not the inward thought.
3. **Overcoming anger** (v 21-26): unwarrantable anger, in Christ's kingdom is liable to the local magistrates court. Anger that uses a contemptuous phrase is liable to the Court of Appeal. Anger that explodes in vehement epithets is liable to the fate of the castaway. If we have sinned in this area then we must leave 'the church service' and be reconciled with the one we have hurt or settle with him quickly before he brings us to court.
4. **Overcoming Lust:** the look is as bad as the act (v 27-28). Control of the heart is due to the control of the eye. Guard against the first tiny thought of evil. Avoid the occasions of temptations. Let Christian love rule the heart.

'To obey this command will require certain 'maiming'. We shall decline to read certain literature, see certain films, visit certain exhibitions. We may have to become culturally 'maimed' in order to preserve our purity of mind. Are we prepared for the sake of this gain to bear that loss and endure that ridicule?'

- J. R. W. STOTT