

***The New Normal
Our Kingdom Response to Anger
Matthew 5:21-26***

ONE THING

- ***MISHANDLED anger leads to a MISGUIDED life***
- ***Anger is one letter away from Danger!***

Jesus' sermon began with the "ATTITUDES OF THE KINGDOM". The EIGHT beatitudes...

Then last week we saw where Jesus shared with us our IDENTITY in this DECAYING AND DARK world...

We are SALT and LIGHT...

As Jesus comes to the "HOW" He begins by expressing HOW THIS NEW NORMAL WILL BEGIN...

Matthew 5:21–26 (ESV) — “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you

over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

This is the first of Jesus' ... “You have heard... But I say to you...” statements...

In each, Jesus quotes a teaching from the over 613 different laws the people were being taught to obey...

Why did Jesus only choose SIX LAWS, and why THESE six laws?...

These SIX LAWS have to do with RELATIONSHIPS between people...

The way we treat other people...

IMPORTANT! To understand, we must look at what Jesus begins with...

“You have heard that it was said to those of old...”

NOTE: Jesus is referring to the religious teachers!

His previous statement regarding the religious teachers is important ...

Matthew 5:20 (ESV) — For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The scribes and Pharisees followed the LETTER of the Laws, but not the HEART of the Laws...

STORY – Pat Keedy

- Pat is a friend of mine...

- **He played professional baseball for 13 years before becoming a HS coach**
- **His coaching focus was Baseball, but he was also assigned to coach some other sports**
- **He was the HS Girls Basketball coach...**
- **Pat was known for his passion while coaching...**
- **He wasn't "Bobby Knight" crazy (i.e. throwing chairs and such), but he was passionate!**
- **One game his girls were playing so bad he said, "I can't watch this anymore."**
- **He turned his chair around and faced the bleachers...**
- **But in one game he was getting particularly animated with the referees**
- **Finally, the head referee said to Pat, "If you get up out of your chair one more time you are going to get a technical foul!"**
- **Pat sat down...**
- **But during a moment when he felt the refs had made a terrible call...**
- **His passion got the best of him!**
- **He grabbed the bottom of his chair and stood up!**
- **He was still "SITTING" in the chair, but standing and yelling at the officials!**

Pat was following the LETTER of the ref's "law", but not the HEART of the ref's "law".

This was what Jesus was pointing out about the religious teachers of God's Law...

Matthew 23:2–3 (ESV) — "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

As noted last week, Jesus is teaching about living God's Kingdom here on earth...

The New Normal is the responsibility of every believer to release God's Kingdom on earth

This calls EVERY follower of Jesus into a DAILY dependence on the Holy Spirit!

We can't produce God's Kingdom on earth in our own strength!

Only the Holy Spirit dwelling within us can!!!

Jesus begins with ANGER...

Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV) — "You have heard 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 will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Jesus begins with the SIXTH COMMANDMENT, "Do not murder"...

He then adds what the teachers taught regarding the punishment of this crime...

'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

The "judgment" referred to here is the earthly courts...

Jesus, however, wants us to know that there is a HIGHER COURT in which ALL will be judged!

Matthew 12:36 (NLT) — And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.

The Apostle Paul wrote these sobering words...

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) — For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

I want us to look at Jesus' statement again...

Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV) — “You have heard 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 will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Wow! That's intense!

Jesus is NOT saying, “Don't ever get angry.”

That would be impossible since anger is an emotional response to

Jesus is saying, “Deal with your anger the right way!”

Today, I am going to attempt to show you the right way and the wrong way of handling your anger...

Mishandled anger leads to a misguided life

Anger is one letter away from Danger!

I felt it best today to help us understand how to deal with anger by creating a flow diagram...

So, let's begin...

→ Pic 1



→ Pic 2



With your anger, you have TWO POSSIBLE CHANNELS for it to flow...

You can either allow your anger to take its natural course through your own sinful nature...

Or, you can allow the Holy Spirit to have your anger and flow it through Him...

Let's begin by following the natural, normal progression of anger...

→ **Pic 3**

There are **THREE** possible responses of the flesh towards anger...

→ **Pic 4****THE THREE FAULTY RESPONSES TO ANGER**

RESPONSE	MOTTO
FIGHT	DON'T GET MAD... GET EVEN!
FLIGHT	DON'T GET MAD... RUN AND HIDE!
FESTER	DON'T GET MAD... FILE IT AWAY!

James 1:19–20 (ESV) — *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

You may say, “But Bro. David, you don’t know what they did? You don’t know...”

You’re right! ... But there’s **ONE PROBLEM...**

Your righteousness is no better than the scribes and Pharisees!

And look at the results!

→ **Pic 5**

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) — *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Look at how many of these “works of the flesh” flow through anger...

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) — *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry,*

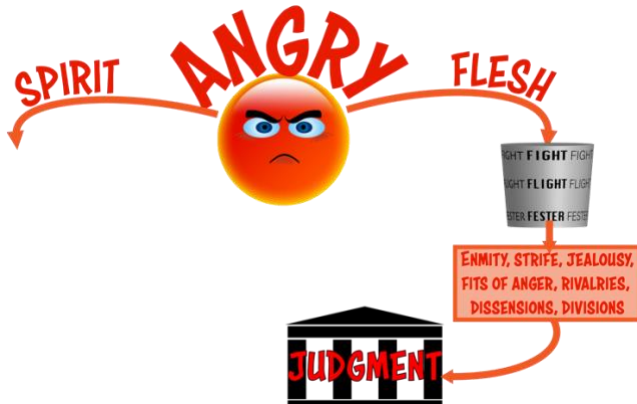
sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

And notice the warning Paul gives regarding these...

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) — Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

And what is the result?

→ **Pic 6**



Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV) — “You have heard 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 will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the

council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

I know, you are saying, “Yea, but Bro David, I just don’t see how you can say that my anger towards someone is anything like murder!”

Well, you don’t have to believe me, but will you believe the Bible!

1 John 3:15 (ESV) — Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Anger is one letter away from Danger!

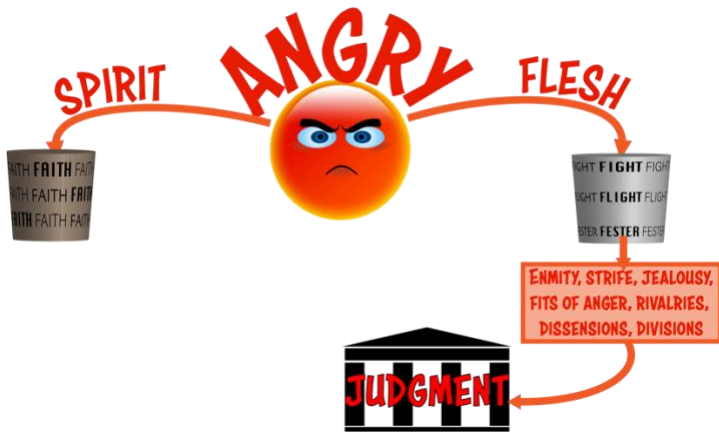
Mishandled anger leads to a misguided life

In this passage, Jesus is showing us the Kingdom way of dealing with our anger...

➤ **Between the ERUPTION of ANGER and the CORRUPTION of LIFE is an opportunity for the INTERRUPTION of GRACE.**

So let’s go back to our diagram and see if we can learn God’s Kingdom way of handling anger...

→ **Pic 7**

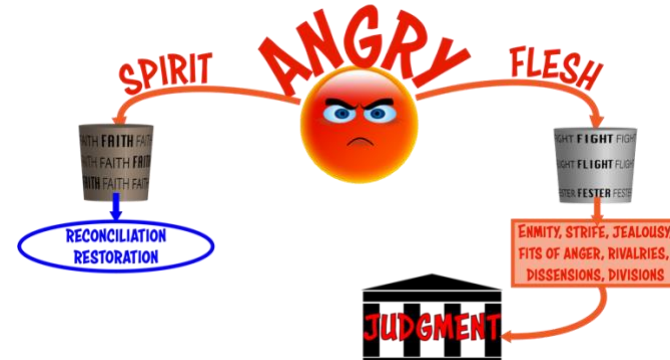


Look how Jesus tells us that FAITH responds to anger...

Matthew 5:23–26 (ESV) — So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

➤ **Anger is a SPIRITUAL matter that OBSTRUCTS your WORSHIP!**

→ **Pic 8**



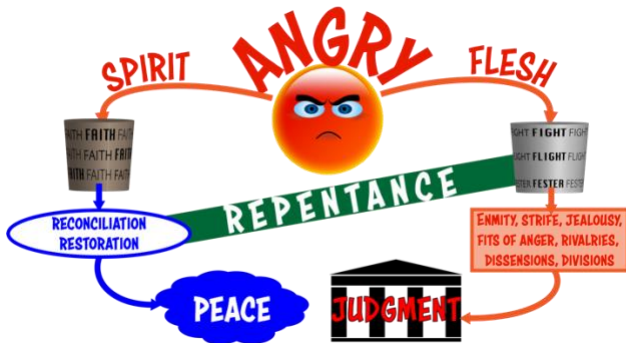
→ **Pic 9**



I know that some of you are thinking, “Oh no! My anger has had such a control over me... Am I lost Bro David?”

Well, maybe...

But for ALL of us, God has a solution!

→ **Pic 10**

1 John 1:9 (ESV) — *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- ***When I choose to REPENT of my anger rather than continuing to VENT all my anger, God chooses to RELENT of His JUDGMENT!***

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- _____ **anger leads to a _____ life**
- **Anger is one letter away from _____ anger!**
- **Between the _____ of _____ and the _____ of _____ is an opportunity for the _____ of _____.**
- **Anger is a _____ matter that _____ your _____!**
- **When I choose to _____ of my anger rather than continuing to _____ all my anger, God chooses to _____ of His _____!**

