

July 16th, 2023
Pretty, Ugly People: Week 2

We're basing our teaching from an encounter that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day.

Much of the early Gospel account is not that these teachers were wanting to walk into a learning debate session with Jesus, they wanted to take His teachings and twist them so they could have grounds to discredit Him, and ultimately have him banished, or even killed as a heretic!

Mark 7:14-15,18-21 (NIV)

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them..." "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart..."

Mark 7:6-8 (NIV)

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

I've heard for years that the church is FULL of Hypocrites. It's not Full, but we are Guilty!

Hypocrite: a person who pretends to have certain BELIEFS about what is right, but who BEHAVES in a way that disagrees with those beliefs.

The Issue of ANGER:

We live in an Angry World!

- Weekly we watch passengers flipping out on a plane or waiting to board.
- I don't know the facts, but it seems to be when I'm riding with EPD, half the calls that night are a "Domestic Violence" case.
- We've labeled people "Karens" because of their angry outbursts.
- One study reports that almost 64% of Americans strongly agree that people, in general, are getting angrier.

Common Causes of Anger:

- Stress
- Not feeling appreciated or treated fairly
- Financial challenges
- Work or relationship issues
- Violence or abuse, trauma in your upbringing
- There can even be Mental Health issues that need to be addressed

Someone said, Anger is an acid that will do more harm to the vessel in which it is Stored than on the person to whom it would be Poured.

Christian counselors report that 50 percent of people who come in for “Christian” counseling have problems dealing with Anger.

Let me start with this preposition: Anger is NOT a sin, but left unattended, it will surely lead us to SIN!

Anger is a very common emotion that often gets a bad rap. It's important to note that there is a large difference between Anger and Aggression. Feelings of Anger are often rooted in disappointment, feeling overwhelmed, fear, and feelings of inadequacy that may need to be addressed before the Anger can subside.

Ephesians 4:26 (NKJV)
"Be ANGRY, and do not sin..."

We've ALL been Angry, and most likely we will be Angry again! So how do we master the feelings of Anger, rather than them mastering us?

For those of you that think I'm giving you a pass, let's look at a few more verses:
James 1:19-20 (NKJV)

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Psalms 37:8 (NKJV)
Cease from anger, and forsake wrath...

Question: So how can we be Angry without sin?

One of the classic examples of Jesus being Angry is in *Matthew 21* when He goes to the temple... but I want to show you a second truth in that story that you've probably never connected the dots to before!

Jesus walked to the temple, and what He saw broke His heart, and made Him righteously angry. He saw greed, He saw hypocrisy, He saw abuse, and He saw misuse of His Father's house. So Jesus did something that was out of the ordinary for Him. In His righteous anger, Jesus made a scene...

Matthew 21:12-13 (NIV)
Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

Then without a break, Matthew gives us this odd little sentence that seems completely out of context in the middle of Jesus wreaking havoc in the Temple.

Matthew 21:14 (NIV)

The blind and the lame came to Him at the temple, and He healed them.

We read that Jesus got Angry, but I bet of all the characteristics we could name for Jesus, we might not even think of this one, WHY?

Although Jesus did get occasionally angry, BY FAR He was Love, Compassion, Help, Grace, Care, Healer, Friend, that's what we know Him to be!

My question to US is: What are we most known for?

Keys to the Anger Issue:

I. Jesus's ANGER was never about his own stuff

His Anger was always at the abuses, and the wrongdoings, and the lack of justice that was going on in the world which he witnessed.

John Stott once remarked: there's room for Christian righteous anger. "Be angry with evil, not tolerant of it. Be angry with sin, not indifferent to it."

Jesus didn't have Sinful anger, but that's what most of us have to deal with.

A. Don't NURSE your Anger

Because before you know it, you're beginning to enjoy your anger! You're beginning to coddle it, embrace it, and there's something about being angry at another person that gives you a feeling of superiority over them; and oftentimes, it's very difficult to let it go.

The Bible says: Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the Devil a foothold!

There is a TIME and a PLACE!

If you can imagine that you're trying to keep evil out of your house, but you leave the door cracked. That's what anger does. And the devil can come inside that crack and just put his foot inside the door, so that he can have access to what's in your house.

B. Don't REHEARSE your Anger

Have you been around people that love to tell you how angry they are? If you ask them, "What's going on with you"? They're going to tell you how ANGRY they are.

Henry Brandt said: Nobody can make you angry. You are angry. They just bring it out of you.

C. Don't CONVERSE about your Anger

In other words, don't let your mouth be the source of promoting Anger or Harm.

Here in the text, we're told that we are not to let any corrupt word proceed out of our mouth. Most "heated" Anger gets exaggerated!

D. Don't DISPERSE your Anger

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Proverbs 19:11 (NKJV)

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a discretion.

Paul's challenge is that we REVERSE it!

Question: How do you reverse anger?

What does the Bible say? You go to the person who's made you angry and you try to minister to them!