

Good News in an Angry World

Matthew 5:21-26

“Do not plunge thyself too far in anger.” Shakespeare

A New Order

“...the Christian life is intentional involvement with Jesus in what he is doing.... His mission is to overcome hunger and hurt of all kinds.... We enter into this relationship of attachment to Jesus – living with him, conversing with him, imitating him, going with him where he goes, doing what he says to do – so that we can share his mission.

John Hiigel, *Partnering with the King*

The Problem of Anger

In a recent poll, 69% of Americans identified themselves as either very angry or somewhat angry.

Matthew 5:21-26

²¹ “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.

The Problem with Anger

3 Observations:

1. Jesus is not equating murder and anger but he is showing us _____.

2. The kind of anger that Jesus condemns is anger that is _____.

Orge

3. Un-addressed anger _____.

Rhaka

Moros

Contempt

Addressing Anger

1. Keep _____.

"Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger." Eph. 4:26

2. Confess your anger and ask God _____.

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view." 2 Cor. 5:16

Father

In the midst of everything

Help me to see others as You see them

Help me to speak to others as You speak to them

Help me to serve others as You serve them

Because I am Your child

In Jesus' Name, Amen

3. Deal with the _____.

"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...." Matt. 5:23-24

4. Guard your _____.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Prov. 4:23

Resources:

Living in Sync by Darrell Johnson

The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard

Matthew for Everyone by Tom Wright

Uncommon Decency by Richard Mouw

The Story of God Bible Commentary: Sermon on the Mount by Scot McKnight

Digging Deeper

This week's passages:

Monday – Matthew 5:3-10

Tuesday – Matthew 5:21-26

Wednesday – Matthew 5:43-48

Thursday – 2 Cor. 5:16-21

Friday – 1 John 2:3-11

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

This Week's Big Idea: "Nursed anger deforms us and others. Jesus invites us to address it by bringing our anger to him and finding freedom."

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. **Read** the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. **Record** or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. **Reflect** and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. **Respond** by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1.22).