



November 9, 2014

Part Six: Righteous Anger

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:12-19

Introduction

It's a wonderful day as Jesus enters Jerusalem with crowds all around him shouting, "Hosanna" (Lord save us). The next day is very different. Jesus curses the fig tree and flips tables in the Temple. Did Jesus get up on the wrong side of His mat or was He expressing a legitimate concern? It seems to be evident with Jesus, that any lifestyle or practice that was not fruitful or was interfering with worshipping God should be addressed.

Discussion Questions

1. David Smith defined the differences between human anger and righteous anger. Do you have additional descriptions? Why do you think it is important to understand the differences between the two?
2. The Bible states that God was angry 281 times. Why was God angry? From what you have read and observed, is God justified in His anger? Was it necessary for God to use anger to make people aware of their disobedience? Why was Jesus justified in His anger?
3. Contrast human anger with righteous anger in your own life. How can you become sure you haven't confused human anger and righteous anger? Share a time you've experienced anger with the same intensity as Jesus. Was it righteous or human anger? (Use the sermon to support your thoughts).
4. As a follower of Christ, what is your list of things a follower of Christ should be angry about? Is it in line with what Jesus is angry about? Is it acceptable or not acceptable to those around you?
5. It is easy to become apathetic because of life's busyness and the frustration of things being out of control. Where does apathy appear in your life? How can you become less apathetic and more loving and concerned like Jesus? (Read Galatians 5:22-23) Where are you strong and where do you need to be in relation to the fruit of the Spirit?
6. Jesus was angry at the apathy of Israel (fig tree was the symbol of Israel) and the abuse in the Temple (money changers 5%-15% mark-up). If we are the temple of God, what should we have "righteous anger" about in our lives?

Conclusion

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"
(1 Corinthians 3:16)