

ANGER AND REVENGE

Matthew Chapter 5.21-26, 38-48

ANGER: MURDER IN OUR HEARTS

This is the first of what theologians call the "Six Antitheses" in the Sermon on the Mount. An antithesis is when two things are shown as being opposite of each other. Here, Jesus describes six well known sayings or teachings by saying, "you have heard it said...", and then completes the antithetical example with, "but I tell you..." Here, Jesus is bringing clarity to false views of Old Testament teaching by authoritatively telling people what the Word *really* is teaching.

Matthew 5.21-26 // 1 John 3.13-18

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

Matthew 5.38-48 // James 4.11, 12

Holding on to bitterness and anger towards someone is like drinking poison and waiting for that person to die.

-Augustine

When we hold on to anger, bitterness, and grudges, we are saying, "Jesus, Your death on the cross was not enough. Not enough to satisfy me, and not enough to pay for their sin." Anger and bitterness is not only a direct attack on an image bearer of God, but it is a direct attack on the cross of Christ.

Your reaction when things are done against you reveal how much you not just simply know the Gospel, but believe the Gospel. Consider this list from Jared Wilson's book, **Gospel Wakefulness**, giving us his signs that we don't understand the Gospel:

- The Gospel doesn't interest you, or maybe not as much as other religious subjects.
- You take nearly everything too personally.
- You frequently worry about what other people think.
- You treat inconveniences like minor tragedies.
- You are impatient with people.
- In general, you have trouble seeing the fruit of the Spirit in your life.
- The Word of God holds little interest.
- You have great difficulty forgiving.
- You are told frequently by a spouse, close friend, or other people that you are either too "clingy" or "controlling."
- You think someone else is the worst sinner you know.
- The idea of Gospel centrality makes no sense to you.

TAKING STEPS AGAINST OUR ANGER

1. Analyze the anger: Ask yourself, "What is this big thing that's so important to me that I get this defensive?" Or, "what am I loving so much right now that my heart is moved to feel angry?" **2 Corinthians 10.5, 6, Ephesians 4.26, 27, Hebrews 4.14, 15**

2. Feel sorrow over your sin: It is often embarrassing to "look in the closet" of your heart and find the reality of the source of your anger. Admit it, own the responsibility, and confess it to Christ and to someone else you trust who can point you to the Gospel. **2 Corinthians 7.9, 10.**

3. Remember the love of Jesus: most important is to think about the Gospel. Memorize great Gospel focused verses like **Romans 3.23, 5.8, 8.1, Ephesians 2.4-6.**

NOTES:

Recommended Resources

The Gospel Transformation Bible

Published by Crossway, this bible is not *so much* a study bible, but a bible with commentary to help you see the bigger picture of Christ and His Gospel in and through all the Scriptures.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **forge friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew Chapter 5.21-26, 38-48**. What verses stuck out or what most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

What things make you the most upset, irritated, angry, and have caused bitterness or resentment in your life. Be very mindful in your discussion time to not gossip, but bring specific instances before the Lord. _____

Read **James 4.11, 12**. What is this verse saying about our attitude towards others? _____

How do the verses in **Matthew 5.21-26 and 38-48** combat the attitude that **James 4.11, 12** point out? _____

Why is it so hard to obey these verses when it comes to anger? _____

What do you think the root of your anger is? In other words, when you ask the question, "What is this big thing that's so important to me that I get this defensive," or, "what am I loving so much right now that my heart is moved to feel angry," what is your answer? _____

When we are angry at others, our attitude is often that we are the ultimate maker and keeper of the law, the Lawgiver and the Judge. You can almost picture the Queen from Alice in Wonderland losing her cool when her kingdom is disrupted. At the end of the day, our irritation, anger, bitterness, and annoyance comes from us perceiving that our kingdom has been disrupted, and someone must pay or make it right.

Now read **Luke 10.25-36**. In the story, the man from Jerusalem, a Jew, would be considered an enemy of the Samaritan. Two Jews passed their fellow Jew, and didn't help. But the Jew's sworn enemy, a Samaritan, did help. Not only that, but a denarius was a day's wage. At \$10/hr., this would have been \$160 that he gave the man to heal. Jesus then says, "go and do likewise." How can you be a blessing to the person who has wronged you? This can be tricky, because the wrongs against us are greatly varying. But at very least, what does **Matthew 5.44** tell us to do? _____

Spend time confessing and repenting of your anger and bitterness towards others. Go through the last section in the **Sermon Notes** as a way to deal with the sin of anger and bitterness.