Righteous Anger
John 2:13-25

ETS: Jesus displayed righteous anger
ESS: There is a time and place for righteous anger
OSS: I want people to know about righteous anger and when and how to use it.
PQ: Are you zealous for God?
UW: Anger

ME

What makes you angry?

- I get angry at **dumb drivers** on the road
- I get angry when I am **intentionally defie**d
- I get angry when someone **hurts** my **family**

Have you ever been **Angry at someone**?

- **Tension** builds up
- **Clenching** your jaws or grinding your teeth.

When you are angry, can you feel your **ears** getting hot?

- Do you feel your **heart rate** getting faster?

Have you ever been so angry that you are **shaking**?

Have you gotten angry at **yourself**?

- Angry at yourself due to **bad decisions**

What you do do when you are angry at yourself?

- **Talk down** to yourself
- **Hit** yourself (have you seen little kids hit themselves b/c angry?)

What do you do when you are angry?

- **Leave** the house or premises?
- **Throw** things
- **Hit** the wall (or people??)
- **Break** things
- **Yell** or scream

OR, do you bottle up your anger?

- **Hold it in** until you explode in a rage
- **Internalize it** and use it for fuel later?

Did you know that **psychiatrists** tell us there are different types of anger?

- **Chronic anger,** which is prolonged
    - Have you known people who seem to be constantly mad?
        - They ALWAYS wake up on the other side of the bed!!

- **Passive anger**
    - They may not seem angry, but their actions and attitudes tell you that they are angry!
- **Overwhelmed anger,** which is caused by life demands that are too much for an individual to cope with.
    - Angry by the demands on them.
- **Self-inflicted anger,** which is directed toward the self and may be caused by feelings of guilt
- **Judgmental anger,** which is directed toward others and may come with feelings of resentment
- **Volatile anger,** which involves sometimes-spontaneous bouts of excessive or violent anger

Weird thing about anger—it can be **fun**!!

- Dreaming of how you are "Going to give it to them" or "tell them off" can be fun!

By the way, <u>did you know that there is only one letter's difference between "**anger**" and "**Angel**"?</u>

- But that one letter makes a world of difference. We are going to use that little letter, the letter "r" to look at anger.

WE

Everyone struggles with anger at some point!

- **Anger** is a **natural** human emotion

Anger has a **range**

- **Irritation** to extreme **fury** and rage.

WHAT is anger?

- According to the American Psychological Association (APA), anger is "an emotion characterized by tension and hostility arising from frustration, real or imagined injury by another, or perceived injustice."
- Anger involves a sense of **unfair treatment**, **threat**, **violation**, or **powerlessness**,
- Anger can **motivate behaviors**
    - Behaviors such as **confrontation** or determined action)
    - Behaviors such as **express the feeling** of anger (e.g., yelling or swearing).

Anger activates the "**Fight**" part of our **sympathetic nervous system**.

WHEN do we get angry? We get angry when we…

- **Perceive threats** (physical, emotional, or social).
- **Goals**/dreams are **blocked**.
- **Encounter Injustice** or unfairness.

- **Feel helplessness**, vulnerability, or shame.

Paul said…**Ephesians 4:26-27** — "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."

- Be angry and do not sin…
    - <u>You can be angry without sinning?</u>

Paul: There is a DANGER to ANGER!

- Anger can lead to sin "and do not sin"
- Anger can give an "opportunity to the devil"
- Anger can fester: "do not let the sun go down on your anger"

Paul: Be angry

- Permission to have anger

<u>How can you be angry and…</u>

- <u>not sin</u>?
- Not give an "opportunity to the devil."
- Not let it consume you

Let's look at Jesus' example

GOD

John 1: Timeline

- Jesus has been baptized (first day of Teshuva)
- Temptation in the Wilderness (40 days of Teshuva)
- Returned (Day of Atonement -the 10th day)
    - John proclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God."
    - Next day: John proclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God," & John and Andrew follow Jesus
        - Andrew finds Peter
    - Next day: Jesus decided to travel north to Galilee
        - Jesus finds Nathaniel and Phillip along the way
    - The "Third Day." Jesus arrives at the Wedding in Canaan
        - First Miracle: Water into wine (Brings LIFE)
    - Jesus travels to **Capernaum** and stays with his family and some of His disciples (v. 12)

John 2:13-25 "The Jewish Passover was near, and so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

- The Passover would have been the following Spring
    - Remember, the Gospels are not always **chronological**. They are *not biographies* like our biographies.

Why does John **skip** several months of Jesus' activity in Galilee and jump to the Passover?

- (It seems odd that Jesus would travel **3 days to Galilee** to perform His first miracle, then *turn around* and walk back **another three days** to Jerusalem.)

Why does John **skip** several months of Jesus' activity in Galilee and jump to the **Passover**?

- **Reason**: illustrate that Jesus is the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world
- **Reason**: To set the stage with **Jesus' conflict** with the **religious leaders** throughout the book.
    - We already saw **John the Baptist's conflict** with the Jewish leadership in **Ch. 1**.
- **Reason**: If Jesus went to the Temple every Passover, as required by the Law, why is it NOW that He drives out the people?
    - His "time had not yet come." (God operates on a timetable)
        - His disciples were not there to witness it.
          Verse 17: His *disciples* are with Him
            - Now, Jesus' time had come!

John 2:14 In the temple, He found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and he also found the money changers sitting there.

- Don’t miss the details!

Passover was a time of sacrifice! Only certain "**clean**" **domesticated** animals were permitted:

- Three groups of animals!

Group 1: Animals from the ***herd*** (cattle, including oxen/bulls)
OX image with: Burnt offering, Sin Offering
Oxen: The **most expensive** and **prestigious** sacrificial animals.

- They were primarily used for **major** or **high-status** offerings:
    - **Burnt offerings** (Leviticus 1:3–9): A male bull could be offered *voluntarily, expressing devotion, worship, dedication, consecration, and surrender to God.* Usually for unintentional sins.
    - **Sin offerings** (Leviticus 4:3–12, 13–21): *Mandatory*. The main focus was on atonement for **specific sins, purification** from **defilement**, and cleansing

G**roup 2:** Animals from the ***flock*** (sheep and goats),
Sheep/Goat image with: Burnt offering, Peace offering, Sin Offering and Guilt Offering

Sheep (and Goats from the Flock)
Sheep (lambs, rams, ewes) and goats were the **most common sacrificial animals** for *ordinary people*—more affordable than oxen but still valuable.

- **Burnt offerings** (Leviticus 1:10–13):
- **Peace offerings** (Leviticus 3:6–17): *Facilitate communion* with God.
- **Sin offerings** (Leviticus 4:22–35):
- **Guilt/trespass offerings:** For *intentional* sins
- **Sheep** symbolized **innocence**, gentleness, and provision (as sources of wool, milk, and meat).

Group 3: Birds (doves or young pigeons/turtledoves). *least expensive option*
Sheep/Goat image with: Burnt offering, Peace offering, Sin Offering and Guilt Offering

- **Burnt offerings** (Leviticus 1:14–17): A pair (one bird) fully burned; the priest wrung off the head and drained blood on the altar side.
- **Sin offerings** (Leviticus 5:7–10): Two birds—one as sin offering, one as burnt offering—for those unable to bring a lamb.
- **Purification rites**: After childbirth (Leviticus 12:8), cleansing from discharges (Leviticus 15:14–15, 29–30), or leprosy recovery.

The inclusion of birds ensured that **atonement** and worship were available **to all Israelites**, regardless of wealth, highlighting God's accessibility and mercy.

Why does John mention that they were selling **oxen, sheep**, and **pigeons**?

- Listing oxen, sheep, and doves covers the **entire economic and social range** of sacrifices: from the **costly** (oxen, for the wealthy or communal) to the **common** (sheep) to the **minimal** (doves, for the poor).

Problem: The system had become **exploitative**, affecting every class of worshiper.

- No one could participate in required worship without dealing with this **profiteering**.
- Took the burden off the people
  - They could just "buy" an animal without any sense of connection to it.
  - No real sacrifice

Why are they "Selling" these animals in the Temple?

- **Targeting pilgrims**!
  - Due to distance, risk of defect during travel, or inconvenience

Selling the animals in the **Court of the Gentiles** (Show Temple PIC)

- The only part where non-Jews (Gentiles) were permitted to enter and pray.
- Sellers provided "*pre-approved*" animals in the temple's outer courts (Court of the Gentiles), inspected by priests to ensure they met the "*without blemish*" requirement.

Who were the "money changers"?

- Money changers exchanged foreign/Roman coins (*bearing idolatrous images*) for **Tyrian shekels acceptable** for the temple tax and purchases—often at exploitative rates.

Problem: What began as a **convenience** had become a **corrupt marketplace**,

- Controlled largely by the **priestly elite** (*e.g., the family of Annas and Caiaphas*),
- Turned the temple into a "house of trade" (John 2:16) rather than a "house of prayer" (echoing Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 7:11).

Jesus' "time had come"
Jesus FIRST ACT at His FIRST PASSOVER *after* His "Time had come" was to ***cleanse the Temple***

What is Righteous Anger?

Righteous Anger is a controlled Anger

John 2:15 After making a whip out of cords, he drove everyone out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers' coins and overturned the tables. **Control:** Jesus took time to "make a cord out of whips"

- Jesus had to go and get whips
- He was IN CONTROL of His **thoughts**
- He was IN CONTROL of Himself **physically**

- **Control:** Jesus had a **purpose** for making the whips
  - **Purpose:** To *Cleanse the Temple*
  - Purpose: NOT to harm people
    - Nowhere is Jesus whipping people or animals

John 2:16 He told those who were selling doves, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

- **Control:** Jesus spoke to those selling doves
  - Jesus couldn't "DRIVE OUT" the doves b/c they were in cages

        - He wasn't going to throw their cages to the ground; they were innocent.
    - Overturning the dove cages or whipping could harm them unnecessarily would have been indiscriminate violence = anger out-of-control!
- **Control:** Jesus was giving those who sold doves time to gather their cages and get out!

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

- Righteous Anger is Anger under control

SKIP>>>**John 2:18-20** "So the Jews replied to him, "What sign will you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." 20 Therefore, the Jews said, "This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?"

- Significance to "forty-six years to build"?

Prophetic Timeline: 1 Day = 1,000 years

- **Hosea 6:2**

The "third day" is a day of resurrection!

- Jesus resurrected on the Third Day
  - Jesus will raise His body (Temple) "after three days"
- Hosea: on the third day, He will raise us up
- Paul: When Christ returns, we will be resurrected (The Third Day)

Prophetic Principle: Jubilee Cycle

- 50 years = 1 Jubilee Cycle
  - 2,000 years/50 = 40 We are about to complete the 40th Jubilee Cycle since Christ's resurrection!
- Multiply **46 years x 50** = 2,300
  - Where does the number 2,300 appear in the Bible? *Daniel 8:14!*

Daniel 8:9-19 describes the rise and actions of the Anti-Christ

- 2,300 is an important number in the **Book of Daniel,** specific to the matters of the future temple restoration.

Daniel 8:14 "And he said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state."

- Like a lot of prophecies, this had a near and far fulfilment
  - Many argue it was fulfilled under Antiochus Epiphanes IV, a type of the coming Anti-Christ who stopped the sacrifices, but then they were restored by the Hasmoneans
    - But Gabriel tells Daniel, "Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." **(Daniel 8:17)**
      - The Scriptures teach that the "Last Days" began with Christ First Coming (Hebrews 1:1–2; Acts 2:16–17; 1 Peter 1:20 and 2 Timothy 3:1)
        - Is it called "last dayS" (plural) because there are TWO DAYS in the last days?
- This is Jesus 1st time in the Temple after His ministry began!
  - Jesus is cleansing the Temple.
    - Jesus is restoring the temple to "its rightful place."

Jesus' "time had come."

- The first instance of Jesus going to the temple was when He was 12 years old

- According to Jewish law (halakha), a boy became obligated to make the pilgrimage (aliyah l'regel) to the Temple in Jerusalem three times a year starting at age 13, the age of bar mitzvah, when a male assumes full responsibility for the commandments (mitzvot).

From age 12 to 30, Jesus had been going to the Temple

- <u>When did they start selling animals in the Court of the Gentiles</u>? We don't know.
    - But I'd guess it had been going on for a long time

For years, Jesus had gone to the Temple and seen the buying and selling of animals.

- Jesus never did anything until NOW
    - His "Time had not yet come."
    - It had not been **46 years!**
        - Jesus entered the Temple at the precise year to cleanse the Temple!

<u>What is Righteous Anger?</u>

Righteous Anger is a controlled Anger

James 1:19–20 (HCSB) "My dearly loved brothers, understand this: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and **slow to anger.**"

- Being "Slow to anger" can only be achieved when you are allowing the Holy Spirit to live through you!

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (HCSB) "Don't let your spirit rush to be angry, for anger abides in the heart of fools."

- Righteous anger is not CHRONIC Anger!
- Righteous anger is CONTROLED Anger

Proverbs 14:29 (NASB95) "He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly."

- Righteous anger is CONTROLED Anger

Proverbs 15:18 (HCSB) "A hot-tempered man stirs up conflict, but a man slow to anger calms strife."

- Righteous anger is CONTROLED Anger

Contrast: Unrighteous anger: Out of control

- Out of control of our tongue
- Out of control of our physical actions

What is Righteous Anger?

Righteous Anger is Zealous for God

John 2:17 And his disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for your house *will* consume me.

- Where is this written? **Ps. 69:9** "For zeal for your house has consumed me…

Psalm 69 was considered a **Messianic Psalm** by the Jews

- Psalm about a **righteous sufferer** who endures rejection for God's sake
- It is *one of the most frequently quoted psalms* in the New Testament (cited or alluded to multiple times, e.g., in John 15:25 for "hated without cause," Romans 15:3, and details of Jesus' crucifixion like gall and vinegar in Matthew 27:34 and John 19:28–29).

Did you catch the difference?

- **John 2:17** "will consume me" = future tense
- **Psalm 69:9** "Has consumed me" = aorist/past tense

FUTURE TENSE: "WILL Consume me."

- **Jesus' zeal for** God's house (and true worship) would **ultimately lead** to his **suffering** and **death**.
    - Opponents would **hate** him "without cause" (as in Psalm 69:4), and his passion would "consume" him on the cross.
- This ties directly to Jesus' next words (**John 2:19**): "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"—referring to his body.

Was this change in VERB TENSE a mistake? No!

- John (the Gospel writer) adapts the psalm quotation to point forward to Jesus' *future suffering and death*.
    - The "consumption" is not merely the intense zeal Jesus displayed in cleansing the temple (John 2:13–16), but something that will **ultimately destroy** or "consume" him—his crucifixion.

Jesus was CONSUMED in His Zeal for God

- He was so consumed by His zeal for God that
    - He would **drive out the money changers** from the Temple
    - He would challenge the **religious leaders** by saying, "Woe to you." and calling them "Hypocrites" and "blind Guides"
    - He would **break human traditions** that were keeping people away from God

Righteous anger is an anger borne out of a **zeal for God**

- Believers should be angry at religious leaders who are fleecing the people of God by the false doctrine of the **prosperity gospel**
- Believers should be angry at religious leaders who are **preaching heresy** and **doctrines of demons** by refusing to **call out sin** and who are going along with the culture.

- Believers should be angry at religious leaders who are using their so-called "**prophetic gifts"** to seduce women and manipulate people

I am angry at **fake pastors** and **false teachers**.

- **I do not seek vengeance** because that is **God's territory**, but I *long for God to execute His vengeance* for His day of vengeance.

Jesus as Jesus was zealous for God the Father, so too should we!

- Our zeal should be reflected in our desire to **walk with God**
- Our zeal should be reflected in our desire to **know His Word**
- Our zeal should be reflected in our desire to **serve Him** by serving others.

What is Righteous Anger?

Righteous Anger Speaks God's Truth

John 2:18 So the Jews replied to him, "What sign will you show us for doing these things?"

- Who are "The Jews" in John's Gospel?
  - Why didn't John say "So the people replied?"

Is the Gospel of John Anti-Semitic?

"The Jews" in John's gospel refers to the religious leaders. (especially in Jerusalem/Judea)

Challenge: "What sign will you show us for doing these things?"

- Indicates that the word about Jesus had spread to Jerusalem
  - *Water to wine miracle*
- Other miracles in Galilee during the last 6 months?
  - They had heard that Jesus had been performing "signs."

John 2:19-22 Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days." 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.

- Did the religious leaders (or even the disciples) understand what Jesus meant at the time? NO!
  - John added the **commentary** (**v. 21)** *after the resurrection*, when they finally understood.

Did Jesus know they wouldn't understand? Yes!

- He knew this would be a confusing statement
  - Why? Because everyone was looking at things through a **physical lens,** not a *spiritual lens.*

Even though Jesus knew they wouldn't understand until later, it did not prevent Him from speaking God's Truth.

- **Truth**: Jesus' body would be destroyed
- **Truth**: Jesus would be raised from the dead on the third day

What Scripture would the disciples come to believe that referred to Jesus?

- 16:10 — "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption" (Peter quoted this Scripture in his first sermon in Acts 2:27–31.
- Isaiah 53 (the suffering servant raised and vindicated)
  - The disciples would later look back and see how Jesus literally fulfilled Scripture.

What is Righteous Anger?

Righteous Anger Doesn't Destroy Your Testimony

John 2:23-25 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, *many believed* in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all 25 and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.

- Jesus' display of anger did not prevent people from coming to Him.
- Jesus carried out His ministry while in Jerusalem.

In **John 3**, we read about **Nicodemus** visiting Jesus

- Had he been **observing Jesus** through the years? Maybe
- Had he heard **John the Baptist's proclamation** about Jesus? Maybe
- Had he heard about the **signs** Jesus had been doing in **Cana and Galilee**? Maybe

But another reason Nicodemus may have come to see Jesus at night is that he **witnessed Jesus' zeal** for God's house.

- Nicodemus had seen a display of righteous anger

In other words, Jesus did not allow His anger to destroy His testimony.

YOU

PQ: Be Angry, but do not sin