

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Kingdom Passion” Matthew 5:21-26 August 31, 2019

Getting Started

We must understand that every one of us has an “anger issue” at some level revealing at times the worst part of who we are. The difference between the “management of anger” and “anger management” is found in changing the order in which we process disappointment.

When you were growing up, who taught you what to do with your anger?

Going Deeper:

The Standard of the Law (Vs. 21): “*You have heard that it was said to those of old.*”

Recognize God’s Authority: “*You shall not murder;*”

Realize Man’s Accountability: “*and whoever murders will be **liable** to judgement.*”

Why do you think humanity needs a God-given set of moral laws to live by?

Why can’t we just figure out morality (what’s good and evil) on our own?

The Spirit of the Law (Vs. 22): “*But I say to you that*”

Cause of ANGER: “*everyone who is angry **with his** brother will be **liable** to judgement;*”

Choice of ANGER: “*whoever insults his **brother** will be **liable** to the council.*”

Consequences of ANGER: “*whoever says, ‘You **fool!**’ will be **liable** to the hell of fire*”

Notice that Jesus has just put Himself in the place of authoritatively explaining what God meant by the Old Testament Law? What does that tell you about Jesus?

What interesting thing do you notice about the progression of these 3 statements?

What do Jesus' words teach us about the value of human life and relationships?

Controlling ANGER: (Know your Triggers)

Recognize the Situations that cause ANGER

Have Self Awareness

Know the Spirit's Abundance

What situations in life cause your 'anger issues' to come out?

What can you do to prepare yourself to not react in anger?

Regard the Sequence in ANGER

Define the Default

Detail the Damage

Disrupt the Descent

Read Proverbs 19:11 in several different translations. How does that verse apply to our typical response of being offended and becoming angry?

The Submission to the Law (Vs. 23-26): “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something **against you**,”

Requires Humility:

Leave your Gift: “*leave your gift there before the altar and go.*”

Offer your Gift: “*First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*”

The bible insists on relational unity. If you are the one who has offended someone else, you are told to go and reconcile before you come to worship.

If you are the one who has been offended, **Matthew 18:15-17** says you are to go and attempt reconciliation with your brother, even involving a mediator/witness, or the church leaders if necessary.

Romans 12:18 says, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

So, whether you are the offender, or the offended, you have to go and try to be reconciled. Anger destroys relationships, but reconciliation strengthens them.

Is there someone you need to be reconciled with? Ask your group for the courage to go and start the process.

Respond Hastily: “*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. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.*”

When you have wronged someone else, it is always best to quickly and humbly apologize before their anger gets a chance to grow into a desire for revenge and punishment. Share with your group about a time when you defused a volatile situation through reconciling with someone quickly. Or, share about a time when you let your anger get the best of you and it led to terrible consequences...

Take Away: The emotion of anger is a God given indicator revealing what is truly most important about our lives. Let's focus moments of our anger towards what produces righteousness versus what is unrighteous.

Prayer: