

The Primacy Of Anger In The Order Of Evil

Exploring the Talk on the Hill

The Purpose of The Sermon

To understand the Talk on the Hill, it must be seen as a sermon. That is, having one central theme or idea that runs through everything that is said.

A “good” person is one who has found the kingdom, their hearts are transformed and are living in its ways

That transformation is evidenced by seeing:

1. Doing religious deeds is not enough 5:20
2. It is the response of the soul or heart that matters 5:21,27
3. In every circumstance, we Love people 5:40,42,44
4. The goal is to be like Jesus 5:45,48

Inner Nature Determines Outer Deeds

- Jesus told those who wanted to know how to work the works of God to put their confidence in the one God had sent (John 6:29). He knew that we cannot keep the law by trying to keep the law. One must aim to become the kind of person from whom the deeds of the law naturally flow. The apple tree naturally and easily produces apples because of its inner nature. This is the most crucial thing to remember if we would understand Jesus' picture of the kingdom heart given in the Sermon on the Mount.
- John 15:4-6

Six Contrasts of the Old and the New Moral Reality

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
1. Irritation with one's associates, (vv. 21–26)	No murder.	Intense desire to be of help. No anger or contempt.
2. Sexual attraction. (vv. 27–30)	No intercourse.	No cultivation of lust.
3. Unhappiness with marriage partner. (vv. 31–32)	If you divorce, give “pink slip.”	No divorce, as then practiced.

Six Contrasts of the Old and the New Moral Reality

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
4. Wanting someone to believe something, (vv. 33–37)	Keep vows or oaths made to convince.	Only say how things are or are not. No verbal manipulation.
5. Being personally injured. (vv. 38–42)	Inflict exactly the same injury on the offender.	Don't harm, but help, the one who has damaged you
6. Having an enemy, (vv. 43–48)	Hate your enemy.	Love and bless your enemy, as the heavenly Father does.

The Primacy of Anger in the Order of Evil

- The first illustration Jesus gives of Kingdom Heart Rightness or Virtue, is how we deal with people with whom we are displeased and we may allow ourselves to treat them with anger or contempt.
- Matt.5:21-22; James 1:19-21; 3:2-12; Ps.37:8; Prov.14:29; 22:24; 30:33; Gal.5:18-20
- When we trace wrong doing back to its roots in our heart, we find in most cases it involves some form of anger and close beside it, its twin brother contempt.
- Jesus knows that understanding the role they play in everyday life is crucial to establishing the kingdom rule in our lives. It is the elimination of anger and contempt that is the first step toward the rightness of the kingdom heart.

What is Anger?

- 5:21 – If you **MURDER** you will be liable to Judgement
- 5:22 – if you are **ANGRY** with your brother you will be liable to judgement
- Jesus uses the same punishment for both murder and anger. God views anger toward someone exactly the same as murder
- Anger is part of our self defense mechanism. It is a feeling that seizes us and immediately impels us toward interfering with those who have thwarted our will and interfered with our life.
- Indeed, anger is in its own right an injury to others. When I discover your anger at me, I am already wounded.

What is Anger?

- Your anger alone will very likely be enough to stop me or make me change my course. It may also evoke my anger in return. Usually it does, precisely because your anger places a restraint on me. It crosses my will. Thus anger feeds on anger. The primary function of anger in life is to alert me to an obstruction to my will, and immediately raise alarm and resistance.
- And if that were all there was to anger, all would be well. Anger in this sense is no sin. Anger would perform its vital function as pain does in the physical body. The problem is that some degree of malice is contained in every degree of anger. That is why it always hurts us when someone is angry at us.

What is Anger?

- It is the involvement of the will in anger that makes it so deadly as to deserve the censure Jesus places upon it. We can, and usually do, choose or will to be angry. Anger first arises spontaneously. But we can actively receive it and decide to indulge it, and we usually do.
- Some choose to become an angry person who carries a supply of anger in constant readiness for whatever may challenge them.
- The answer to why people embrace anger and cultivate it is one we must not miss if we are to understand the ways of the human heart. Anger indulged, instead of simply waved off, always has in it an element of self-righteousness and vanity. Find a person who has embraced anger, and you find a person with a wounded ego.*

What is Anger?

- Once you see those emotions for what they are, the constant stream of human disasters that history and life bring before us can also be seen for what they are: the natural outcome of human choice, of people choosing to be angry and contemptuous. It is a miracle there are not more and greater disasters. We have to remember this when we read what Jesus and other biblical writers say about anger. To cut the root of anger is to wither the tree of human evil. That is why Paul says simply, “Lay aside anger” (Col. 3:8).
- But there is nothing that can be done with anger that cannot be done better without it. The answer is to right the wrong in persistent love, not to harbor anger, and thus to right it without adding further real or imaginary wrongs. To retain anger and to cultivate it is, by contrast, “to give the devil a chance” (Eph. 4:26–27).

Dealing With Anger?

1. What are the circumstances that you most often respond to in Anger?
2. What is the issue or element of your pride or will that is being blocked?
3. In light of eternity, how important is that issue?
4. Are you willing to surrender it to the King?
5. Ask Him to remove your heart of anger and replace it with His Loving heart of Flesh!
6. Ask Him to remind you of your surrender as you are entering into those circumstances that used to make you angry.