

# The Poison Of Contempt

Exploring  
The Talk On The Hill



# 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.**
- **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?

- **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 an opportunity” (Eph. 4:26–27).**
- **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.**

# God's View on Anger and Contempt

- 5:21 – **MURDER** and you will stand condemned before the law
- 5:22a – If you are intensely **ANGRY** with those around you, you will stand condemned before the law
- 5:22b – If you are **CONTEMPTUOUSLY INSULTING (*raca*)** to your brother, you will be liable to the highest court in the land
- 5:22c - If you are **ANGRILY CONTEMPTUOUSLY DEGRADING** to someone, you will be liable to the hell of fire
- Jesus uses the same punishment for both murder and anger and an even stronger condemnation for contempt!

# Understanding Anger and Contempt

- **Contempt is a greater evil than anger and so is deserving of greater condemnation. It is a kind of studied degradation of another. It also is more pervasive in life than anger.**
- **The Aramaic term *raca* was current in Jesus' day to express contempt for someone and to mark out him or her as contemptible. In anger I want to hurt you. In contempt, I don't care whether you are hurt or not. You are not worth consideration one way or the other. I want to banish you!**
- **We can be angry at someone without denying their worth. But contempt makes it easier for us to hurt them or see them further degraded.**

# What is Contempt?

- **"Contempt is a ... mix of the primary emotions disgust and anger. The word originated in 1393, from the Latin word *contemptus* meaning "scorn."**
- **Contempt conveys the sense that the recipient has a quality that is "hopelessly un-fixable".**
- **A baby who tastes rotten food immediately wrinkles their nose, curls their lips in an expression of disgust, and spits it out. When someone speaks to you with a tone of contempt, you are likely to feel spit out from that person's world. "Get out of my life" is message embedded in the "you're not ok" tags that get communicated via contemptuous tone of voice or attitudes.**

# What is Contempt?

- **The intent and the effect of contempt is always to exclude someone, push them away, leave them out and isolated. This explains why filth is so constantly invoked in expressing contempt and why contempt is so cruel, so serious. It breaks the social bond more severely than anger. Yet it may also be done with such refinement.**
- **Contempt may be served cold in a snobbish high society way. A pride filled arrogance that looks down their nose at others and says, “You are beneath my position!”**
- **When anger is added to contempt it is “the hell of fire!”**

# What is Contempt?

- In family battles, the progression is nearly always from anger to contempt (always expressed in vile language) to physical brutality. Once contempt is established, however, it justifies the initial anger and increases its force.
- This is how contempt accomplishes its dehumanizing work — by marking its target as unworthy of engagement and thus not a full member of the human community.
- Those who are “excluded” are thereby made fair game for worse treatment for by others. This is “Bullying.” Conversely, respect automatically builds a wall against mistreatment.

# What is Contempt?

- **To belong is a vital need based in the spiritual nature of the human being. Contempt spits on this pathetically deep need. And, like anger, contempt does not have to be acted out in special ways to be evil. It is inherently poisonous. Just by being what it is, it is withering to the human soul. But when expressed in the contemptuous phrase—in its thousands of forms—or in the equally powerful gesture or look, it stabs the soul to its core and deflates its powers of life. It can hurt so badly and destroy so deeply that murder would almost be a mercy. Its power is also seen in the intensity of the resentment and rage it always evokes.**

# What is Contempt?

- In his talk “The Inner Ring,” C. S. Lewis comments that “in all people’s lives at certain periods, and in many people’s lives at all periods between infancy and extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements is the desire to be inside the local Ring and the terror of being left outside.”
- Ask yourself, “In this past week have I looked and someone and felt my nose go up and think demeaning thoughts about them because they .....
- We may not say it, but we think the contents of our heart
- Kids learn from us and they say it... and their victims die

# What is Contempt?

- **Have you been the victim of contempt? The wounds go deep.**
- **We must learn to forgive and love as Jesus does.**
- **Jesus loved and accepted those that culture and religion had “excluded” from the ring of a acceptance.**
- **While we were still “sinners,” Christ loved us and died for us that we could be accepted and “one with” him and God the Father.**
- **Will you love as He loves?**
- **Will you forgive as Jesus Forgives?**

# Dealing With Contempt

- 1. What are the circumstances that you most often respond to with Contempt? It may be a circumstance or person.**
- 2. What is the pride issue that keeps you from loving that person?**
- 3. Are you willing to surrender it to the King?**
- 4. Ask Him to remove your contempt filled heart of pride and replace it with His Loving Kingdom Heart!**
- 5. Ask Him to remind you of your surrender the next time you are engaging with that person and give you His love for them.**