

## *Righteous Anger*

### *Mark 11:1 -21*

*The first mark of righteous anger is that it reacts against actual sin. It arises from an accurate perception of what is actually evil. The Shorter Catechism helpfully summarizes sin as any "want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God." This is what ought to arouse our anger. This means that for anger to be righteous, it cannot arise in response to a violation of my preferences. It cannot arise because I have been inconvenienced or I feel that my rights and freedoms have been trampled upon. Righteous anger reacts against what is really sin...*

*When we turn to the Bible to find accounts of righteous anger, we see that this kind of anger focuses on God and his kingdom, his rights, and his concerns, not on me, my kingdom, my rights, and my concerns. It is the violation of God's name or God's fame that motivates anger, not my name and my fame... Finally, righteous anger is accompanied by other godly qualities and expresses itself in godly ways. True anger properly diagnoses what is actual sin, it focuses not on personal offense as much as Godward offense, and then it expresses itself in ways consistent with Christian character. Tim Challies*

- I. Jesus uses the real-life illustration of a fruitless fig tree to make a point about his view of hypocrisy. Israel had been given the responsibility of being a witness to all the world concerning God's truth, holiness, love, grace, and mercy. Instead, they made their witness of God's good name into something to satisfy the sinful desire of their hearts. They glorified themselves instead of God by using his name for power, profit, and control. Hypocrisy takes on many forms, but a sure way to keep ourselves from being an actor of instead of a participator in the holiness of God, is to stay humble before him knowing that as our King. He will hold us accountable for how we represent of his good name to the world.

Mark 11:1-14

2 Ki. 25:6b-7

Matt. 10:34-36

Col. 1:19-10

Rom. 5:1

Mal. 3:1-3

Song of Songs 2:13

Hosea 9:10

Matt. 23:1-33

**ὑποκριτής** *hupōkritēs*, 'hoop-ok-ree-face'; from G5271; an actor under an assumed character (stage-player), i.e. (figuratively) a dissembler ("hypocrite"). Strongs' concordance

- II. Jesus never sinned, so his outburst of righteous anger in the temple was a reaction to seeing reverence for God through prayer and sacrifice turned into a manmade religious system that did nothing for the spiritual wellbeing of those who were controlled by it. There will be little change in the church unless there is more righteous anger toward what sinful man has done to the church. To have little regard for the holiness of God means that the church will have little regard for not only the spiritual wellbeing of those in the church, but also for how it represents the gospel to the world.

Mark 11:15-19  
1 Kings 8:41-43  
John 2:14-16  
Psalm 69:9  
Isaiah 56:6-7  
1 Cor. 3:10-17  
1 Cor. 6:19-20

***Ephesians 4:26-27*** "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

- III. Israel's hypocrisy led to Jesus completely removing their witness to the world and giving it to the church. We, i.e., true believers in the gospel, have been given the tremendous responsibility of being the salt of righteousness and light God's truth to a world in desperate need of salvation. In fact, no matter what happens, we are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. We are being increasingly challenged in this way as we see the world around us changing in ways that cause us great concern. If anything, it should make us even more determined to stay true to him until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled.

Mark 11:20-21  
Rom. 11:25-27

***Philippians 1:27*** *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.*