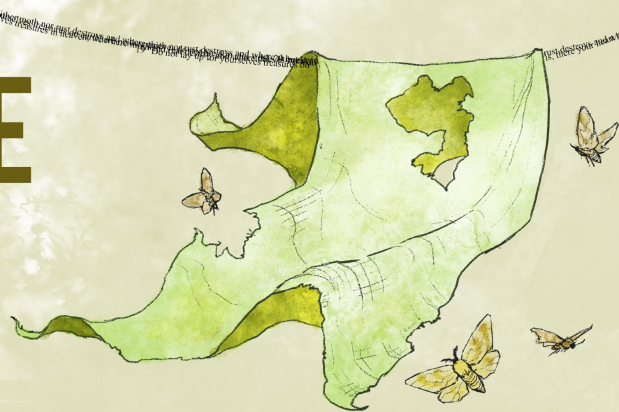


DISCUSSION GUIDE

SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES 2: THE WAY OF JESUS



ANGER

Overview

This week, we continued in our mini-series called The Way of Jesus as we considered Jesus' teaching on the important topic of anger. Anger is a part of being made in God's image. It's an essential tool that he has given us to appropriately respond to the brokenness of the world. However, we don't always respond to anger appropriately.

Anger is like the crossroads of two paths. Whenever we experience anger we have the choice of how we will respond - redemptively or destructively. Jesus first describes the destructive path that moves from harboring a grudge, to insults, to shaming. He then invites us instead onto the redemptive path that leads to reconciliation.

Jesus' vision is that when we experience anger over something not being the way it should be, we would let that drive us to make things the way they should be. **The Way of Jesus sees anger as a catalyst towards reconciliation.**

Jesus' doesn't teach us not to experience anger. That would be impossible. But rather, he teaches us to let our anger move us towards reconciliation. He empathically emphasizes both the importance and the urgency of reconciliation in his teaching. His church is to be marked by unity, so living in reconciled relationships with one another is of utmost importance to Jesus.

Jesus is living proof that this is possible. God looked down on the earth and saw the sin that infected it and was angry, but instead of calling down wrath to separate himself from sin, he entered in. He went to the offenders to reconcile with them, to make a way for us to be with him again. The way has been made, the redemptive path lies before you. Will you walk it?

DISCUSS

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26 together.
2. How is anger like the crossroads of two paths? What does the destructive path look like? What does the redemptive path look like?
3. Why are reconciled relationships so important to Jesus? How does this impact the effectiveness of our witness to the watching world?

NURTURE

1. Jesus shows in his teaching that our relationship to God is intimately tied up with our relationship to others. How do you see this play out positively and negatively in your life?
2. What are some things that can make it difficult to obey Jesus' teaching concerning anger and pursuing reconciliation?
3. How do you personally struggle to obey Jesus' teaching?

ACT

1. Take a minute to reflect and ask the Holy Spirit to convict you. Is there anyone in your life who you are remaining angry with? Share with the group.
2. How might Jesus be inviting you to take a first step towards reconciliation with that person? How can the missional community support you in this?
3. As a group, discuss how you will respond to Jesus' teaching together in the future when you experience conflict. How can this be applied to your life as a community?