

HANDLING ANGER AS A KINGDOM CITIZEN

July 20, 2014 Matthew 5:21-26 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 9

“You made me angry!”

“This is the covenant I will make... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.” **Jeremiah 31:33**

“If you want me to come and set all things right, you must let me at what’s inside of you! Let’s start with your anger.”

MAIN IDEA: The kingdom heart sees and handles anger radically different.

- ◆ Anger is not always wrong. (Eph. 4:26f)
- ◆ Honor-Shame Culture
- ◆ Externally focused, not heart: *“What can I get by with?”*

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister, will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. **Matthew 5:21-22**

4 CLARIFYING INSIGHTS

¹NT words for Anger: *Thumos* and *Orge*

²*Raca* questions their intelligence.

³*You Fool*, (*mōre*) questions their character.

⁴An escalation dynamic in *anger expressed* AND *consequences with God*.

1. We are **ACCOUNTABLE** to God for what we do with our anger.

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak” **Matthew 12:36** ESV

HOW IS A KINGDOM HEART TO RESPOND?

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. **Matthew 5:23-24**

2. **RECONCILIATION** is at the heart of everything Jesus is about.

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.” **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. **Matthew 5:25-26**

3. Kingdom hearts seek to make things right **QUICKLY**.

4. Kingdom hearts are **INTENTIONAL** about reconciling, even if it’s inconvenient.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” **Romans 12:18**

This is heart ethic... and it is not easy.