

## Fatherhood Requires Mercy and Justice

5/4/23

Truth (Justice) without mercy is tyranny. Pharisees – hypocrisy

Mercy without truth(justice) is complacency rooted in fear.

Jesus Christ reveals the Father who is Love. Love is BOTH mercy and justice. One without the other is disordered, a broken fatherhood.

Avoiding anger at all times may be a sign of weakness. **St. Thomas Aquinas notes how it is a vice not to get angry over things one should.** He calls it "unreasonable patience."

### Just Anger

Jesus experiences all human emotions, including anger. As we contemplate in the Bible how Jesus lived anger righteously, we learn the difference between just anger and sinful anger. In John 2:13-16 we witness Jesus' anger lived with physical manifestations such as turning over tables which seems out of character for Jesus:

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple, and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade."

Why is Jesus angry? Jesus explains His just anger in this message:

***To love Justice requires being able to live just anger according to God's will.***

- A man that cannot live just anger in God's will cannot love.
- A man that lives sinful anger rooted in pride cannot love.

*I became angry because I am one with My Father. I revealed, through My anger, the holy wrath of the Father's Heart to see His holy temple turned into a marketplace. My just anger expressed Abbas's wrath. My anger flowed from love. **The purpose of My anger was to bring into the light the darkness of sin** that had penetrated the House of God, especially in the hearts of the church officials.*

- The just anger of a father must bring to light the sin in his children's hearts and discipline them to help eradicate the sin. If a father fails to exercise this holy anger, he enables the making of unruly children, which will produce disordered future men.

*The just anger of God is now shaking up the Church and the world. God's wrath is overturning the lives of people and exposing the sin in My holy sanctuary. God's just*

*anger touching the earth is moved by love, for **the purpose of God's holy anger is always the salvation and redemption of His people.** 11/9/22*

Jesus' anger in the temple was not the only time that He revealed His "just anger." Throughout the Scriptures, we see Jesus angry. For example, in Mark 3:1-5:

Again he entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. **Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart**, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

The above Bible passage from Mark reveals that Jesus' anger is connected to His sorrow (grieved). The Lord explains the union of God's anger and sorrow in the message He gave the Love Crucified Community on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

**The anger of God flows from His sorrows.** *God is love, and God's love is one with His sorrows, for His people continue to turn their lives away from Him to live seeped in pride and self-love. **God's just anger flows from His sorrows when His mercy is not received.** Therefore, all My emotions reveal Love, Abba Father. God's just anger must now act to save His people from total destruction, for God is love and remains faithful even when His people don't.*  
*Just like sorrow, the human emotion of anger needs to be purified in God, moved solely by love and not pride.*

- Reacting from anger as an outburst is always moved by pride.
- Acting from anger to Bring to light the darkness in the heart of another  
 SOLELY FOR THE GOOD OF THE OTHER is holy anger.

***Just anger lived through Me, and in Me becomes the sails of the ship(heart) moved by the wind of the Holy Spirit to act with God's zeal, courage, and truth. Just anger moved by the Holy Spirit becomes the sword of righteousness that cuts through bone and marrow, exposing the hearts of My people.***

- Without just anger, it is impossible to be moved by the Holy Spirit to do God's Will as men of His Kingdom.

**Therefore, every person must distinguish anger rooted in pride from the just anger of God moving through souls to accomplish His will. My just anger always moved (acted) to reveal the lies in the hearts of our people, for truth and lies cannot coexist. God's holy anger brings about a great shakeup because He is love and only desires the redemption and salvation of His people.**

*You, my daughter, will need to wield the sword of righteousness contained in the words I speak to you without fear but consumed in God's holy anger for love to triumph. 11/14/22*

Therefore, whenever we feel anger, we must process our anger in Christ to get in touch with the sorrow. How do we process our anger?

- First, acknowledge what I'm feeling. What am I feeling?
- Second, Ask, why am I angry?
- Third, get in touch with sorrow beneath the anger. **JUST ANGER IS ALWAYS MOVED BY HOLY SORROW.**
- Ask, what is the greatest act of love for this person, to remain in silence or to tell him/her the truth, to set clear boundaries and limits...? A person who is fearful of "bullies" because of past sins will always want to avoid a confrontation.

For example, I'm helping my community as best that I can, and a brother from the community is critical, harsh, unappreciative, and demanding. I immediately feel angry, but I also must get in touch with the deep sorrow for my brother's brokenness. If I immediately REACT from my anger, I will tell him off. That reaction is sinful anger. If I enter my sadness and suffer the sorrow of his brokenness first, then I can act in God's justice by bringing to light his darkness. This does not mean that my words must be flowery when what is needed is the sword that pierces bone and marrow. Just anger many times moves a father to have sharp words such as Jesus reveals in the Gospels, but always moved by the sorrow of true love for that brother. As Jesus teaches us, this **requires great discipline to not react but also great love to have the courage to confront.**

St Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 reveals holy anger toward the Christian community of Corinth. St Paul admonishes the sinner severely with strong words like Jesus' to the Pharisees. He says, "You are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh." Most of us would think, "Whoa! That's not very nice! Isn't that a little harsh?" Yet that severe punishment was needed to humiliate him, to bring about the taming and eradication of his lust to save his spirit. St. Paul excommunicates the man from the community. St. Paul acts with the authority of the Holy Spirit to protect both the sinner and the community from falling into complacency with deadly sins. He witnesses restored manhood in Christ in which the emotion of anger is moved by the Spirit of Love.

### **What Is the Wrath of God?**

Msgr. Charles Pope, in the article, *What Is the Wrath of God?* Explains:

**God's wrath is His passion to set things right.** We see an example of this right at the beginning, in Genesis, when God cursed Satan and uttered the protoevangelium: I will make you and the woman enemies ... one of her seed will crush your head while you strike at his heel (Genesis 3:15). God is clearly angered at what sin has done to Adam and Eve, and He continues to have anger whenever He beholds sin and injustice. He has a passion for our holiness. He wants what is best for us and is angered by what hinders this.

**God's wrath is not like our anger.** In saying that God is angry, we ought to be careful to understand that however God experiences anger (or any passion), it is not tainted by sin. God is not angry in the way that we are. When we get angry, we often lose control, saying

and doing things that are excessive, if not downright sinful. It cannot pertain to God to have temper tantrums, fly off the handle, or lash out unreasonably. The way God does experience anger is not something we can fully understand, but it is surely a sovereign and serene act of His will, not an out-of-control emotion.

**God is not moody.** It does not pertain to God to have good days and bad days, good moods and bad ones. Scripture seems clear enough that God does not change. Hence, God's wrath does not represent Him suddenly getting fed up, or His temper flaring, or His mood souring. He does not change; He is not variable.

**The primary location of God's wrath is not in Him; it is in us.** God does not change; He is holy and serene; He is love. If we experience His wrath, it is on account of us, not Him. God cannot and will not change, so we must be changed, or else we will experience wrath.

### **Reflection questions:**

Was my father a tyrant? If so, is this harshness also in me? Have I entered this wound and worked my disordered harshness through repentance? If not, why? Or do I live in fear of confrontation and do not allow myself to feel anger?

Was my father the "nice guy" that left all the discipline to my mother? Or a father that was absent? How has this affected my manhood?