

FACING ANGER

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 3

The Passage

Matthew 5:21-26

Questions

Where do you often find yourself getting angry?

How does Jesus say we are supposed to deal with our anger?

How can we as a family work on facing our anger and not allowing it to keep us from loving those around us?

Prayer

God... we love you. Thank you for caring enough about us to not leave us in our mistakes. Help us to leave our anger behind and love people the way you love us. We can't do it alone. Give us the strength so that our family can show this world how special you truly are.



The Story

We care a lot about things being fair. One of the earliest arguments it seems that a child masters is the cry, "That's not fair!" And the arguments keep on coming. "He got picked first. She didn't deserve it. They got more." But the truth is the cry "not fair" does not end in childhood. The arguments just grow up. "I work just as hard as they do. The other guy was speeding too! I deserve better than this." Too often our reaction to "not fair" is to respond with anger. Anger, and the selfishness that follows, can be an impulse that sneaks up on us all, especially if we think we have been treated poorly. Jesus knew all of this about us as he spoke on the mountain in Matthew 5. And in verse 22, he takes aim right at that sore spot, our righteous anger. His point is simple; if any of you has been angry, you are worthy of judgment. Talk about direct! In the kingdom of God, the state of your heart and mind matters to God. Even if we don't act on it, that anger is sin. When we get angry at him or his people, we stop seeing the world as Jesus does and that little edge of selfishness fights its way back into control. I don't know about you but I am guilty of this all the time, of letting anger and selfishness get in the way of how I am called to love my Savior by loving his children. The solution Jesus gives is both simple and hard; go make it right. If you have failed in this area, you are not alone. Everyone falls here. But Jesus refuses to let us stay where we fall. He calls us to stand up, face our sin, and be part of the new kingdom he is creating in our world. Don't wait!