

What Makes Jesus Angry

ser3962 When God Seems Mean, Pt3

August 16, 2020 E & L

Good morning every one! I am happy to see you all at church this morning. Today we are in part three of our series, "When God Seems Mean." When we planned this series, I was reminded of a time when my daughter Lizzie was a teenager. She was reading her bible every day, which made me really happy, and I loved talking about what she was reading. Except the day she came to me and she said "Mommy I am reading the Old Testament and I feel like God is really mean sometimes."

I said, "Really, what makes you think that? She said, "Well He destroyed the whole earth with a flood, and there's other things he does that make him seem mean. Is God mean?" I said, "No Lizzie, God is love. He is not mean. There may be a lot of things that God does that you may not understand at first."

I told her that she will understand some things. But there may be other things that happen in life that she may never understand and when she can't understand God, there is one thing I always want her to do.

And she said, "What is that Mommy?"

This is what I said to her. Actually, I am going to wait to tell you my answer to her until the end of my sermon.

Would you pray with me for the message? (Pray)

The title of my message today is “What makes Jesus Angry”

You all know that anger is an emotion. Anger is not a sin. God tells us, in His word, what to do when we are angry.

Ephesians 4:26 “In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.”

I can honestly say that now that we are older, John and I do follow that verse, but that wasn’t always the case.

Are you ready for a Kulikowski transparency story from our younger days of marriage?

First, I want to say that my husband John is the biggest blessing in my life. He is the most faithful and most forgiving person I know. I am just in awe of him! Lol

John is a wonderful husband, but he can also be the most annoying person I know! Even so, I wouldn’t want to be married to anyone else. Okay, we’ve cleared that up for the moment.

I know John has shared how he struggled with anger and still does sometimes. We are both very passionate, stubborn people. When we would get into an argument, we didn’t always go to God or act like Jesus in our anger. We would get so angry with each other that we would hold our most valuable possessions hostage.

It would go something like this; in the middle of an argument I would say, “You just wait John! While you’re sleeping tonight, I am throwing your cello out the bedroom window and when you wake up it will be on the front lawn.”

Why? Because I was mean. John would just go to bed after a fight like he didn’t have a care in the world. John loved his cello and I wanted him to worry. So I would lay in bed and plot revenge on John. Mostly involving his cello. That’s mean, right?

Another time we were arguing and John went downstairs to sleep on the couch because he was so angry with me. After an hour, I went downstairs and I said, “John just come upstairs and go to sleep.” I was worried he would have an insulin reaction and I wouldn’t be there to give him sugar.

But He was stubborn and wouldn’t come up. So, I got an awful, wonderful idea. I got a big bucket of water and poured it on his head. Now he had to sleep upstairs because the couch was all wet. Good idea, right?

John wasn’t so innocent either. One time we were in the kitchen, arguing about something stupid. He went over to my Longaberger Pottery Canisters. They are retired now. You can’t get them except maybe on Ebay.

He would hold up my favorite colored one, the butternut squash, and say to me, “Gina, say one more word and I drop the canister!” Now that’s mean! So, I would say, “Ok John, if you break it, I will just buy another one on Ebay and pay

twice as much for it because it's retired. He would then put it down!

God's not mean, but we are. Or at least we can be if we don't take our emotions to Jesus.

What then makes Jesus angry?

We know that Jesus never sinned. But He did get angry.

Let's look at the story in Matthew when Jesus cursed the fig tree.

Jesus Curses a Fig Tree

Matthew 21:18-22 Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, He was hungry. 19) Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it. "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. 20) When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. 21) Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, "Go throw yourself into the sea and it will be done. 22) If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer."

On the surface we can see a few things here. It looks like because Jesus was hungry and the tree had no figs it made him angry, so He cursed the tree.

But if we know Jesus character, we know He's not like us and he doesn't get Hangry. You all know what Hangry is?

Hangry- Irritable or angry because of hunger.

We know Jesus wasn't Hangry. And we also see that this is a lesson about faith, miraculous faith.

But let's look at the fig tree a little bit closer.

Verse 19: Seeing a fig tree by the road he went up to it and found nothing on it but leaves.

He spots a fig tree "in leaf". This tree gets Jesus attention because it has a full covering of leaves. The leaves of the fig tree would only bloom if there were fruit behind them, so these leaves were masquerading as the real thing but when Jesus inspected them more closely they had no figs behind them.

The leaves had no fruit behind them. The tree is not producing fruit.

Jesus is immediately disappointed. All leaves and no fruit.

Jesus then curses the fig tree and says it will never bear fruit again. What was this lesson or warning?

The fig tree leaves were representing something they didn't have.

The leaves didn't have fruit. On the surface it looked like they did. As Jesus looked closer there were no figs, no real fruit.

Why was this important?

The disciples were going to be caretakers of God's people when Jesus left. They were going to be instruments by which Israel and the world was going to be transformed. Can the world be transformed when there's no spiritual fruit?

Later Jesus talks about faith and how if they believed they would receive anything they asked for in prayer. They were going to perform miracles in Jesus name but first they needed to bear fruit.

They needed to bear real fruit and real fruit can only be produced by being in God's presence, obeying Him and spending time in His word.

Pretending to be something we are not will never bear fruit. We will be like the fig tree and have an appearance of spiritual fruit, but never the real thing.

Is anyone listening today? Our leaves may be fooling even us.

If Jesus were to look really closely at our lives, would He see fruit? Real fruit comes from within us.

It doesn't matter what people believe we are. It only matters WHO we really ARE and God knows who that is.

When no one is watching us, are we bearing fruit? Like love, joy, peace, patience, forgiveness, and longsuffering?

Two years ago I asked God to give me a word for the new year. That word was authentic.

I think about that word all time. Even if we are not perfect, which none of us is, it's better to be authentic to God and let Him change us into who we were created to be, then to keep pretending and never receive the healing we need to change.

There is only one person we are going to stand in before and account for our lives and that's God himself. We can't fool God, just like this fig tree couldn't fool Jesus.

The truth is, we can't bear fruit on our own. We need Jesus.

John 15:5 I am the vine you are the branches if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.

What makes Jesus angry?

- 1.) Hypocrisy

Pretending to be something we are not because we are afraid of what people will think of us. All that matters is what God thinks of us.

Are you an authentic believer and follower of Jesus Christ?
What sin do you need to overcome but can't because you
hide it from others?

God is asking you to repent and be real with Him. Who are
you really?

Are you authentic? I have to ask myself this question every
day.

2.) Injustice.

Jesus is angered by the injustice that are placed on people.

- He loves the children
- He loves the poor
- He loves the oppressed
- He loves the widows
- He loves the broken and bruised.

Jesus is angered when we stand by and watch injustices
happen.

Isaiah 1:17 "Seek justice. Defend the oppressed."

3.) Judgmentalism

This denies people access to the love of the Father, putting
rules or regulations on what people must do to get close to
God.

The Pharisees did this all the time. Do we?

Are we trees with leaves and no figs or are we producing the best fruit of all by sharing the love of God in everyday life and on social media?

Your intimacy with God is everything. We may not understand everything God does and why He does it. How could we know the mind of the Lord? God is all knowing and all powerful. We are not.

The older I get the more okay I am with not having all the answers because I have the only answer I will ever need. If I were to question, "Do you love me God?", I know the answer to that is, "Yes, Gina, more than anything in the world."

And I know He will say the same thing to you. Do you believe that? Because what you believe about God will determine the way you live your life.

When we can't understand why things happen in our lives that hurt us, or why there is so much pain in the world, I want you to do what I do; the thing I told my daughter Lizzie to do when she didn't understand God, or thought He was mean sometimes.

I told her the one thing I want you to always do Lizzie, when God seems mean, is look to the cross.

Look to the cross.

Would a mean God give up his only Son to die on a cross for our sake? To take our place? As parents, could you or I give up any of our children to a world full of sinners?

But God doesn't look at us as a world full of sinners. He looks at us as His creation, as who he wants to be His children and He wants to be with us forever. Only He couldn't do that because He is a Holy God and sin can't enter a holy heaven. Believe me, you wouldn't want it to because with sin comes pain. There is no pain in Heaven.

There needed to be a sacrifice to make us holy. That sacrifice was Jesus, God's very own Son. God came down in the form of Jesus because he would rather die than live without us. Does that sound like a mean God to you?

See this picture? It was taken at my daughter Lizzie's wedding, four years ago.

She got married on a farm and she said to me, "Mommy I really need a cross. We need to find a cross for the two of us to stand before to exchange our vows. I want to start my marriage with what you always told me to do. You always told me to look to the cross and when things get tough in life, I want us to look to the cross together."

Look to the cross.

Maybe you didn't start off your marriage looking to the cross, but you can now; it's never too late. Jesus can heal your marriage if you give it to him.

Maybe you didn't raise your kids looking to the cross. You can now. It is never too late.

Maybe you are alone. The great thing about the cross is that it's always there reminding us that we have a loving God who would go to any cost just to have us love him back.

All God ever wanted from you and me is a relationship, but He gave us free will. He will never force you to love Him. However, He will always love you.

Jesus isn't angry with you, He's angry about the things that hurt you. Sometimes it is our own sin. Jesus is standing at the door and knocking. Will you let Him in today? All you have to do is answer the door. Nothing less, nothing more.

Do you want that personal relationship with God? It's as easy as A,B,C.

- A. Admit** you are a sinner. We've all sinned in our lives.
- B. Believe** God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take our place so we could receive his righteousness.
- C. Commit** our lives to Jesus and live for him.
- D. Do it today!**

If you would like that relationship with God, say this prayer right where you are.

Dear God, thank you for loving me, I admit I've done things that are wrong. You call that sin. Please forgive me, Father God.

Dear Jesus, please come and live inside my heart and be my Lord and personal Savior. I commit my life to you. Holy Spirit please fill me with your presence and help me to live my life for Jesus Christ. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.