

Angry Jesus
Jonathan Cleveland
Matthew 11:16-30
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Small Group Discussion Questions

Deep in our Christian tradition is a concept that God is SO angry at all of us

That He may use anger and an intimidating presence to get obedience out of us.

*How have you seen this concept play out in your church journey?

*When was a time you felt like God was angry at you?

Jesus was angry sometimes

His anger revealed a lot, and his lack of anger reveals a lot.

*How does Jesus, as the invisible image of God, inform our perception of God and His anger?

Read and discuss

Matthew 16:11-24 (ESV)

¹⁶But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

²⁰Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

*Who or what was Jesus angry about in the passage? Who or what was he not angry at?

*How does Jesus’ anger differ from our own?

He is angry at religious people who were cynical, critical, and moralistic

Jesus is sick and tired of destructive religion and he starts to call it out when he sees it.

*What are the implications of Jesus’ anger at this type of religion for us?

*How is real holiness characterized by love for sinners instead of anger?

He is angry at religious people that keep their distance

They cared more about their concept of righteousness than they did about suffering people.

*How can we be angry like Jesus at this type of religion? How can we distance ourselves from religion that separates us from sinners?

Read and discuss

Matthew 16:25-30 (ESV)

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.^[b] ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*How does Jesus follow up his angry rant with these verses?

*What can we learn about the way Jesus was angry?

Jesus is calling people out and the purpose behind it is an invitation

The invitation to the front seat – to stop believing God is angry with you and say yes to the easy yoke.

*How would your life change if you could stop believing that God was mad at you?

*Why does typical anger and religion fail to change the world?

*This week, remind yourself that God is not angry with you. Ask Him to help you step away from cynicism, criticism and moralism and put on His restful yoke.