

## Quarter One: God's Love and Justice

Jill Morikone

### Lesson 5—The Wrath of Divine Love

#### Tuesday: Righteous Indignation

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- **Last Week:** “God is Passionate and Compassionate”
  - The depths of God's love for us, as His children (even when wayward)
  - The love we should exhibit toward others
- **This Week:** “The Wrath of Divine Love”
  - People love God's love; but struggle to accept His wrath or justice
    - However, His wrath arises directly from His love
    - As in, God becomes angry at evil **because** He is love
  - Lesson: “God's anger is always His righteous & loving response against evil & injustice.”
  - Divine wrath is another expression of divine love

**Memory Text:** “But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath” (Ps 78:38, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Grieved by Evil (John D)
  - Ps 78 & Neh 9 - The cycle of rebellion – God's hatred against evil, because evil hurts His children (even self-inflicted evil)
- 2. **Monday:** God Is Slow to Anger (James)
  - Jonah 4 – God's mercy & compassion, even in the face of evil & rebellion; the cross = where God displays justice & mercy (claims of the law met while forgiveness offered to the offender)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Righteous Indignation (Jill)
  - Multiple Scriptures – examples of Jesus' anger – how it's righteous & seeks to protect others from evil
- 4. **Wednesday:** God Does Not Afflict Willingly (SQ)
  - God's anger only against that which harms His creation; yet, He suffers long with the evildoer; however, love finally requires justice
- 5. **Thursday:** Show Compassion (John L)
  - Love is who God is; God's divine wrath only exists because of evil in the world. When evil ceases to exist, wrath will cease. Yet, love continues on for all eternity. Human vengeance is evil.

#### Tuesday: Righteous Indignation

Matt 21:12, 13; John 2:14 – 16; Mark 10:13, 14; 3:4, 5;

- Is all anger wrong?
  - Eph 4:26 – “Be angry and sin not...”

- Can anger ever be “righteous?”
  - Can God’s anger against sin and evil be holy?
  - Can anger be part of God’s love?
  - Can divine wrath be an expression of divine love?
- Humanity loves God’s love; but struggles to accept His wrath or justice
  - What if His wrath were connected with His love?
  - As in, God becomes angry at evil **because** He is love

### 3 snapshots of Jesus’ righteous indignation

- **#1: Jesus cleanses the temple:** all 4 gospels
  - Matt 21:12, 13 – “Then Jesus went into the temple of God and **drove out** all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves, (13) And He said to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,” but you have made it a den of thieves.’”
    - Jesus **drove** them out = Gk, “cast forth, drive out, expel”
      - Same Gk word for “cast out” demons, in other places
  - John 2:14—16 – “And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. (15) When He had made a **whip** of cords, He **drove** them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. (16) And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!’”
    - The Jews had turned God’s temple into a money-making business –
      - At the expense of the widows, orphans & the poor
    - The Jews were oppressing the very people they were supposed to help
      - His temple was supposed to be a place of prayer – a holy place
        - Injustice, oppression & sin was happening in His house
  - Why was Jesus angry?
    - Because **Love = ownership**
      - “I will save you for myself at any cost”
      - Love demands an exclusive relationship
        - Nothing between us and Jesus
    - Ex 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a **jealous** God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.”
      - Don’t have other idols, because our God is jealous
        - Jealous = Heb, *kan-naw*’ = Jealous – used 6 times in OT, always refers to God
      - Godly jealousy = jealous for (sinful jealousy = jealous of)
        - God is jealous for us because we belong to Him (He owns us)
        - Because love is holy, God wants nothing between Him and us
        - Nothing that would supersede His place of affection in our hearts
  - Snapshot #1: Jesus cleanses the temple
    - Love = ownership

- **#2: Jesus protects the children:** 3 gospels; Matthew, Luke & Mark
  - Mark 10:13 – “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might **touch them**; but the disciples **rebuked** those who brought them.”
    - “Touch them” = Matthew says “that He might put His hands on them and pray”
    - Rebuked = Mark’s gospel showcases that Jesus was criticized for associating with the wrong kinds of people (the marginalized):
      - The tax collectors; the sinners
      - The woman; the children
  - Mark 10:14 – “But when Jesus saw it, He was **greatly displeased** and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.’”
    - Greatly displeased = NIV, “indignant”
      - NLT “angry”
      - KJV “much displeased”
    - He was displeased because the disciples were keeping the children from Him –
      - Something / Someone that would encourage, strengthen & bless them
  - Why was Jesus angry? (Indignant?)
    - Because **love = protection**
      - “I will protect you from evil at any cost”
        - In this case, why are you keeping the most vulnerable of society from a good thing?
        - Sometimes, we’re protected from
          - Evil; indifference; neglect
          - Even kept from something good
      - \*A child is stolen from the parent’s home
        - Would we expect a parent to be horrified & to fight to get their child back?
      - Protection from evil & sin from others – or even with self
    - God’s law, His boundaries, are for our protection
      - \*Garden of Eden – God not being harsh by withholding from Adam & Eve the tree of knowledge of good & evil
        - Wanted to spare them much heartache & pain & death
        - Sin instantly brought fear & guilt
- **#3: Jesus rebukes legalism:** Mark 3
  - Mark 3:1—5 – “And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. (2) So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. (3) And He said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Step forward.’ (4) Then He said to them, ‘Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’ But they kept silent. (5) And when He had looked around at them with **anger**, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.”
    - Anger = Gk, implies not a sudden outburst, but a “settled anger”, ie rising up from an ongoing opposition

- Jewish *Mishnah* recorded numerous medical conditions that couldn't be alleviated on the Sabbath
  - (Explains why the crowds waited until after Sabbath to come 4 healing)
- Jesus is directly violating their man-made rules
  - Jesus is angry that mere men are keeping other men from Him
    - From healing & wholeness
    - From redemption & salvation
- Pseudo-Christianity
  - Man-made rules imposed on other's makes Jesus angry
  - Matt 15:9 – “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
- Legalism of Scribes & Pharisees
  - Matt 23:4 – “For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”
    - Legalism puts man-made rules on others to bind them
  - Matt 23:13 – “But woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.”
- Why was Jesus angry?
  - Because **love = redemption**
    - “Anything that hinders your salvation needs to be pushed aside”
    - 2 Pet 3:9 – not willing that any should perish, but that all should come...
  - When the Pharisees kept people from salvation & from Jesus
    - That needed to be pushed aside

### 3 snapshots of Jesus' righteous indignation

- Snapshot #1: Jesus cleansing the temple
  - Love = **ownership**
    - “I will save you for Myself at any cost”
- Snapshot #2: Jesus protecting the children
  - Love = **protection**
    - “I will protect you from evil at any cost”
- Snapshot #3: Jesus rebuking legalism
  - Love = **redemption**
    - “Anything that hinders your salvation needs to be pushed aside”