

WHO IS JESUS?

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

4: WHAT MAKES JESUS ANGRY?—JOHN 2:12-25

JIM HINTON

I. THOUGHTS ON ANGER

1. Anger in and of itself is not wrong

2. There are two kinds of anger

- Unrighteous anger

- Righteous anger

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)

Righteous anger is usually not about oneself. It is about those whom one sees being harmed and whom one wants to help." In short, righteous anger is a tool of justice, a scythe of compassion, more than a reactive emotion. Although it may have its roots deep in our fight-or-flight desire to protect those in our family or group who are threatened, it is a chosen response and not simply an uncontrollable reaction. And it is not about one's own besieged self-image, or one's feelings of separation, but of one's collective responsibility, and one's feeling of deep, empowering connection.

Desmond Tutu

Righteous anger: Mad enough to make a change

Steffannie Roache

II. WHAT MAKES JESUS ANGRY—JOHN 2:12-25

1. Injustice against innocent people (v.14-16)

2. Irreverence toward His Father's Temple (v.17-22; See Matthew 13:10-17)

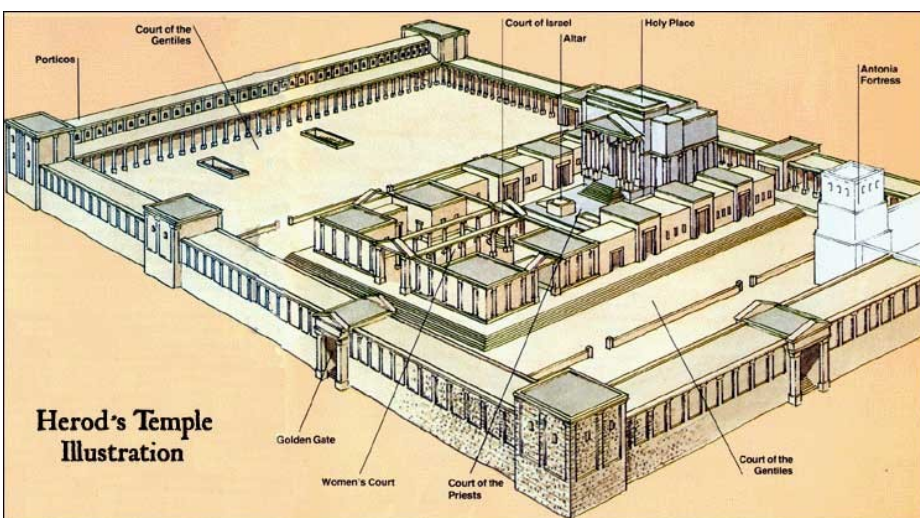
John highlights this tendency of Jesus more than the other Gospel writers. Jesus didn't waste His words on people who didn't want to hear. In fact, He didn't speak in order to convince the skeptic or sway the dissenter. His words were intended to divide His audience into two groups: receptive hearts and hard hearts. He understood that hearing Him is not an intellectual process, but a crisis of the will. Several times throughout the story when Jesus says something cryptic, some people think they understand Him and turn away, while others admit their confusion and draw nearer.

Chuck Swindoll

3. Indifference of superficial followers (v.23-25)



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III. APPLICATION: THREE CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

First question: Do I get angry at the same things that Jesus does?

We can tell as much about a person by what he hates as by his loves. We should be passionate people, angered by what angers Christ

R. Kent Hughes

Second question: Am I keeping my temple clean?

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

Third question: Why am I following Jesus?