

We walked with Jesus from day to day, and He was almost always the gentle Shepherd¹. Occasionally, though, He became like a Lion² to protect not just His people, but His Kingdom. He became angry when, confronted with a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath, He noted that there were some that were looking for a reason to accuse Him³. So, He provoked them by posing a question about the true meaning of God's law and then Healed them man completely. His adversaries then went out, after seeing someone wonderfully helped and healed, to plot with others how they could have Him killed.

Jesus also made it very clear the danger associated with anger. But He kept His anger in check, even when He cleared the temple of the moneychangers who were cheating religious pilgrims who came to worship⁴. He did not debase them; He just pushed them back from their position of false superiority. And He was in complete control of His anger⁵.

The Jewish leaders, however, were often extremely angry with Him, as they viewed Him as a threat to their national existence. They wanted to provoke anger in Him so that He would give them cause to prove to the people that He was a fraud. But He would not and did not make a mistake.

I once had an acquaintance that loved to argue more than anything. They accused me of not having and responding with passion. There are a couple of instances in the Scriptures that remind me of this type of situation. The first was where Saul lashed out in anger against his own son Jonathan for not having the "proper" passion for the throne (he was acquiescing in honor of David)⁶. The second was where Jezebel wanted a passionate response from Ahab concerning the acquisition of Naboth's vineyard (rather than laying on his bed and refusing to eat)⁷. In both cases the mis-directed passion produced a threat of death for the innocent.

This type of anger tears down relationships, and fans the flames that ultimately lead to destruction. Passion for God is a wonderful thing! Destructive or mis-directed passion is not! The Psalmist wrote that we should pursue peace⁸, which we must do as much as possible⁹.

I was criticized for not having passion – mostly because I did not enjoy meaningless argumentation. I worked to not let my anger get out of control. I knew that I certainly had passion – but it was for God's way rather than a passion for my own agenda. The Christ showed a similar (but much deeper) passion as He battled His adversaries to let the glory and goodness of God shine through, especially in the last week of His life before His crucifixion¹⁰.

His sacrifice demonstrated His passion for His people. Do we have a responding passion for Him?

1. See John 10:1-18.
2. "See the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David", Revelation 5:5.
3. Mark 3:3-6.
4. Matthew 5:22.
5. Ephesians 4:26.
6. 1 Samuel 20:30. Here the death of David was sought.
7. 1 Kings 21:1-7. Here the death of Naboth was sought.
8. Psalm 34:14; see also 2 Timothy 2:22 and Hebrews 12:14.
9. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18.
10. This is now known to us as "Passion Week".

Background

An adversary story; character: the chief earthly adversary;
tell as though it comes from someone else

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Mark 3:3-6

3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Dealing with Sin in the Church

Matthew 5:22

But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

I met a man...

A man came to me...

Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich

Reshape to discuss anger?

[RQ] How many times did someone ask Jesus to help with a personal family disagreement or problem?

Man with concern about his inheritance

Martha complaining about Mary

Commentary

Cleansing the temple; a passion struggle; one with a passion for God's way, and the other for a passion

He concentrated on letting the glory of God and His Goodness shine through...

He didn't want me to fix it – just counsel him; help him to understand

It is not the correct response to return anger for anger!

People trying to make you angry...

Pushing trying to make you angry – trying to give you a greater chance of making a mis-step, provoking you to say or do something that they can use against you; like the Pharisees continually tried to do with Jesus

Pursue peace!

The story

Write the story of the OW stating that I didn't have "passion" (translate → "anger", not "zeal" or "bullying") because I didn't participate in her fights and arguments (with screaming); I had a passion for peace (and goodness) – but she had a passion for self

I did not have a passion for someone else's agenda / rules / freedom
We don't have passion for the same things

We all have adversaries who want to be that; Some people love to fight (like the passion of a pig who fights in the mud – both get dirty but the pig loves it); loving controversy
Some people can start a fight in an empty room (and actually lose!)

Passion switches: Amnon with Tamar ("love" to hate); Paul with Christians (hate to love)

Other examples

Job: Why are you angry? Jonah too
Cain's anger (passion?) in killing his brother Abel;
Jesus (righteous anger); Mark 3:5 and in cleansing the temple

Historical examples

Saul's anger lashing out against David and even his son Jonathan; (not having a passion for the throne)
Jezebel wanted "passion" from Ahab vs Naboth

Connect to the "Negative people" topic

"Fiery" passion, self-worship (the temple, the temple, the temple);

Passion Week; Christ had passion for the people; do we have a passion for Him? [Passion Week]

Look for cases of violent arguments

Paul and the Ephesians (Demetrius?)

As much as you can – pursue peace [Ps 34:14, 2 Tim 2:22, Heb 12:14]!

Search anger; wrath; don't let the sun go down on your wrath (don't keep fanning the flame)

Anger is not usually the correct response to being presented with anger