

Tough Talk – The Hard Sayings of Jesus

Week 6 - Lifegroup Questions

- Icebreaker: When were you last angry? What happened as a result of your Anger?

Read: Matthew 5:21-26

- In verse 22 Jesus says that “...anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment” what does this mean? Are we ever permitted to be angry, why/why not?
- In the gospels, the times when we see Jesus getting angry are either because people are being treated unfairly or people are being prevented from knowing God (see Mark 3:1-6, Mark 11:15-17 & Matthew 23:23). What is the result of Jesus anger in these situations?
- Can you think of any personal or historical situations where anger has led to justice?
- Nicky Gumbel says “The test as to whether our anger is justified or without cause is to work whether it is based on love for others, or simply love for ourselves” Do you agree, why/why not?
- Jesus speaks of the danger of calling people names in anger (Raca – meaning idiot, and fool) why is labelling people in anger so damaging? What is your experience of this? What are some of the other negative consequences of our anger?
- Read Ephesians 4:26-27, in what way does hanging on to our Anger give the devil a foothold?
- What does verse 23 tell us about God's expectation of us? (See also Isaiah 1:11, 17, Amos 5:21-22, 7)
- On Sunday Dan said that there is a danger that we can make our relationship with God only about us and Him, but that God cares passionately about the way in which we treat each other (See 1 John 4:20-21). How can we make sure that our relationships with each other remain healthy?
- In verse 25 Jesus offers advice on how to deal with those who are angry with us from outside of the body of believers (see also Romans 12:18). In what way can our anger damage our witness to Christ?