Sunday, November 29, 2020

Message Title: The Rise and Fall of Outrage

Speaker: Kyle Strickland

Slides:

Clip from Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZPV3-_xiso> (3:17-3:54)

Anger, alone, is not a capital vice. Anger, alone, isn’t sinful. In fact, anger can be justifiable. Even necessary.

Following Jesus will often make us angry. Following Jesus gives us clear sight for injustice in the world.

The difference between the anger of God, the anger of Jesus, and our own anger, is that God’s anger is incorruptible. Jesus’ anger is incorruptible. But our anger is prone to corruption.

**1**What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? **2**You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. (James 4:1-2)

**13**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **14**But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.**15**Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16**For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. (James 3:13-16)

The desires, which cause outbursts of outrage, are defined here as two phrases in particular: **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition**.

15Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. (James 3:15)

**17**But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **18**Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:17-18).

The alternate path for us – the path God paves for us – is to be **binding agents** instead of **destructive forces**.

There are at least three ways we can let outrage fall, and good, righteous anger prevail:

1. Be angry without sin.
2. Be angry without grudges.
3. Be angry without vulnerability.

(Let these three appear one at a time, as I address them. Thanks.)

17But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:17-18).

Our outlet for anger is sowing peace.