



DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 5:21-22

Everybody agrees murder is wrong, but why? We are made in the image of God. To wrong people is to wrong God. We agree murder is wrong, but then Jesus raises the bar and says the same punishment that the judge gives for murder is the same punishment that the judge will give you if you are angry.

It's not just any anger, but anger that has settled in your heart; the kind that says, "I am always going to be angry about that or with them." The kind of anger that is capable of destroying them and you. Anger like this kills friendships, marriages, parent/child relationships, and every kind of relationship. We all lose it at some point, but if we hold on to our anger, if we do not recognize it or fail to admit that we are struggling with it; if we do not let it go, Jesus says it is murder. With my words I am killing you and destroying us!

How have you experienced this type of anger?

If you are in a relationship that is being destroyed by anger spend time in prayer asking God's wisdom to seek and give forgiveness.



DAY 2

READ JAMES 1:19

Some of us have been injured and, with reason, are angry. We push it down and try to hide it, but it will cause damage and will hurt others if we don't resolve it. There is so much at stake here. We need to pursue peace with people and peace with God, because if we don't, our anger can send people away from God. Failing to react properly and hurting people is always a tragedy, but for too many who would claim to be believers, this has become the norm. We have become known as an angry people in many ways. We speak our hearts on political matters, pop culture, and things that are important to us without forming relationships with others. This leads us to being known for what we are against rather than what we are for.

Paul Richardson says, "When you allow your opinion to override the gospel, you are participating in the spiritual death of everyone in your wake." God's love is not an endorsement of our opinions; the things that make us angry. God extended love to us in order to change us. While you were a sinner, Christ died for you. He didn't endorse your sin. He loved you in spite of it. He calls us not to express our opinions, our anger, but to pursue peace.

What does it look like to pursue peace?
If you are on social media find a practical way to live this out.

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 5:23-24

We need to pursue peace instead of anger, but there is so much more. We need to show up to worship in the right way; the right posture. We need to come to the Lord without bitterness or anger (not having just blasted someone with rage.) What does that say to the rest of the world? Unfortunately, we can be bitter and angry, constantly negative, and still come before God and worship without seeing how inconsistent these behaviors are.

But Jesus sets the bar high. He says if we are angry with someone, we need to leave church, go to the person and resolve the issue. For Jesus and His disciples, that might mean a 120 mile trip, one way, on foot, from the Temple to Galilee and then back again. Plus repeating the ceremonial cleansing and preparations for worship. Jesus takes anger seriously because if we don't reflect God in worship, how will we reflect Him in the everyday stuff? Reflecting a God of love means leading with love.

What does it look like to lead with love?
Make sure you are reconciled with others before attending church this Sunday.

DAY 4

READ MARK 3:1-5

There is a time when anger, righteous anger, is appropriate. In all the Gospels, an incident is recorded in which Jesus goes into the Temple, kicks over tables, makes a whip, and runs people out. What is he upset about? T-shirt sales and charging for coffee? No, he's upset because they are charging people for worship. Jesus has anger anytime someone puts a barrier up preventing people to come to Him. And what is Jesus angry about in Mark 3:1-5? When people are less important than policy, when the poor are treated unjustly, when the Church should know better. Jesus is angry at sin.

Jesus' anger is never self-centered. His anger is a right and necessary reaction. We like to think all our anger is righteous. 'I can say what I want because it is truly what I believe.' But righteous anger never wishes for revenge, never wishes for harm, always moves Jesus' agenda forward, and always leads with love.

Does your anger hit all the qualifications?
Is it about moving forward the agenda of Jesus?
Does your anger lead with love?

DAY 5

READ JOHN 3:16

Was God angry with sin? Yes, and our sin doesn't just deserve God's anger, but His wrath. God had a right to be angry, but what did He do? He satisfied His anger by sending Jesus, His only son, to die for us-to experience His wrath so that we would not have to and give us the opportunity for eternal life with Him. God leads with love!

If we pursue peace and lead with love it might save our marriage, our kids, our life, someone else's life, maybe it already has. We have the ability to influence our family, our friends, our world by living this way. Don't let our opinions, our frustrations, and resulting anger kill our relationships. Let our love grow them. God leads with love. We can too!

Pursue peace and lead with love in your sphere of influence today and every day.