Prelude & Prayer

* **On a beautiful Saturday late March, the Lord gave me an inspiration for my message.**
  + Story: My family and I with my mom and sisters were visiting my Dad’s cemetery
* **As I thought about the event, I asked myself, “How would I have reacted?” Dear friends, “How would you have reacted?” Would we be angry?**
  + Sure we would! I think most people would!
  + So what words would have proceeded out of our mouth?
  + What would we have done?
    - Take actions that we will regret later on?
* **Today’s message is all about anger; I want us to learn the right perspective on anger.**
  + Not viewed from man’s perspective, but from God’s perspective.
  + So that when we get angry next time, I pray that we will remember the key principles that we will learn today and apply them in our situation.

Theme “In God’s Anger there is …”

**Psalm 103:8-18**

* Let’s read this passage and get a feel for God and his anger.

There is Righteousness

**Psalm 103:17 -** But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children;

**Psalm 145:17** - The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

* **God is a righteous God and in Him there is no sin.** 
  + All that God does is righteous and holy. This means that even in God’s anger He is righteous!
* **In the Bible, when the Lord is angry it is because the people have forsaken him.**
  + They have disobeyed His commandments and have provoked God time and time again, and grieved him with their sins.
  + We will not find one example in the Bible where God was angry without a good reason.
* **When we get angry, would we say that we have a good reason to be angry?** Some of the time? Most of the time? Or all the time?
  + Even if we have a good reason, *but is that reason, a righteous reason*? There’s a different
* **God not only has a good reason to be angry, but He has a righteous reason to be angry!**
  + When Jonah was angry because the gourd/plant that provided him shade had died. God asked him, “Do you have a good reason to be angry?”
    - Jonah’s answer was yes, but his reason was a selfish one.
  + God’s reason to be angry with Nineveh’s wickedness was a righteousness one.
* **In our anger is there righteousness?**
  + Again, we have to be careful here, there is God's righteousness, and there is man's own righteousness (based on relative laws). And we must not get mixed up between the two.
    - **ILLU**: Let say your brother/sister or your spouse lied to you about making reservation to go to an important event when in fact he/she hadn’t done it yet.
    - So you are angry because…
      * You’ve been waiting for this for several years! And now you can’t go!
      * He/She lied to you and God says you should not lie! A lying lip is an abomination to God! This is a righteous anger.
* **Anger itself is not a sin! But how we let our anger affects us may cause us to sin! Just like being wealthy is not a sin, but the love of money is.**
  + When we get angry we lose our control easily don’t we? We say things that we shouldn’t, we do things that we shouldn’t do.
  + We *fall easily into temptation and then sin*. That is why Paul writes in
    - **Eph 4:26** “Be ye angry, and sin not…” But what does he says in verse 27 immediate after this verse, “*Neither give place to the devil*”.
* **Remember, there is righteousness in God’s anger! Is there righteousness in ours?**

There is Patience

**Psalm 103:8** - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

* **The Bible tells us in numerous places that "God is slow to Anger."**
  + This means that God doesn’t get angry easily or right away.
  + This is evident in how God with long suffering dealt with his people in the OT. And how long it took for God to finally drive Israel out of His sight.
  + This is also evident in how God deals with us also, with all our short coming, with all our disobedience, with all our sins.
* **When God does get angry, the Bible uses the phrase "his anger is kindled" to describe it.**
  + This means that God is starting to get angry! Like a fire starting to burn!
  + It doesn't start then immediately burns everything in sight! As if you are pouring gasoline on it!
* **However, there are times when God's is really angry!**
  + “And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel…”
  + When the Israelites were complaining that they had no food to eat in Exodus. "…and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly" -
* **Even when God is angry, he patiently talks to us, reasons with us, and gives us chances to get back on the right track.**
  + After Moses rejected God 5 times, God finally got mad, but he didn’t say “fine, I’m going to strike you down for disobedience, because you have no faith, I’ll get someone else!”
    - God says, here’s Aaron, let’s get him to help you!
  + At the end of the book of Job, God warned Job’s 3 friends because they said the wrong things about God! “My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends”.
    - God gave them an opportunity to escape God’s punishment. They were instructed to offering a burnt offering and ask Job to pray for them.
  + Our God knows our weaknesses, and continues to show his long suffering towards us.
* **In our anger dear friends, is there patience?**
  + Are we slow to anger? Or we like a hydrogen tank, with warning stickers all over the place “*Danger, extremely flammable*”.
    - A small spark will set it off, consuming everything in a square mile?
  + Dear friends, let us not be quick to anger, but remember that our God is patient with us, He is long suffering towards us.
    - Let us learn from Him and do likewise.
    - **Proverbs 16:32** - *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

There is Brevity

**Psalm 103:9 -** He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever.

**Psalm 30:5** - For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: ...

* **A moment means a flash, an instant, a short burst, a short duration.**
  + It implies a slice of time that has an end. And when it has ended, then it is passed, it is no more!
  + It is not a storm that passed then circles back to hit us again.
* **Not only is God's anger brief, His anger is also temporary! It does not last forever.**
  + The Great Red Spot on Jupiter, a gigantic violent storm twice the size of earth! Have existed since man can see it by telescope in the 1800s. This is a long lasting storm that has not dissipated.
  + Can you imagine God’s anger and power lasted that long against us? We would all have been destroyed.
  + We need to give thanks! Think about it, God can remember every sin that we have done in our lives. Yet He chose not to keep His anger towards us forever.
    - *PTL that that it is but a moment*!
* **Is our anger but for a moment?** **Or does it last a long time?** 
  + I guess it depends on the thing that the other person did! If it is bad enough, we can get angry for a very very long time can't we?
  + We can simmer in our anger for days, even weeks and months.
* **Paul says in Eph, that we** **got a day to get over our anger! Before the sun set! There’s a limit!**
  + **Eph 4 -** Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun godownupon your wrath:
  + Don’t keep it to the next day; it is horrible to wake up with anger still festering inside of us.
  + Then it spills over to the other areas of our lives; it spills over to other people, our family!
    - **ILLU**: When spouse gets angry at each other, often time it spills over to their kids!
* **Who does it hurt the most? The person we are angry at? No…**
  + We hurt ourselves! It turns us to a very bitter person! Sometimes even bitter at God, blaming him for letting things get out of hand; to let it happen in our lives.
* **Let us be brief with our anger.**
  + After all when we do something wrong to the ones we love; our spouse, our siblings, our friends and they get mad at us.
  + Don’t we want that to be for a short duration? Sure we do!
* **God’s anger endures but for a moment! So too should our anger be but for a moment.**

There is Mercy and Compassion

**Psalm 103:10,11** - He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

**Psalm 106:44 -** Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

* **In God’s anger, He shows mercy – lenience, and compassion – pity**.
  + God’s mercy and compassion is backed up by His actions and not just words.
  + The clearest proof is Psalm 103 - that He has not fully dealt with our sins and punishes us according to what we really deserved! If He had, then we will all be in lots of trouble.
* **In God’s anger he still hears us, he delivers us**
  + In the book of Judges, whenever the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord heard them and raised up a deliverer who delivered them.
  + In our anger, sometimes all we hear is our own angry voice, our justification of why we are mad! We fail to hear the underlying cry for help.
    - Perhaps they needed help and guidance; our instruction, perhaps they need our loving encouragements, and our prayers.
    - **ILLU**: Using Chop stick when I was young!
* **He spare us,** 
  + God spared the countless lives in Nineveh after they have repented of their evil.
* **He defers His anger and even changes his decision or the condition for judgment** that we’re supposed to receive.
* **Why does God do this? Why does God have mercy and compassion on us?**

**Psalm 103:13 -** For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are*dust.

* + Because God knows us, our weakness, our limitations.
  + Because God loves us.
* **In our anger, is there mercy? Is there compassion backed up by actions?**
  + Remember we are not perfect! *Neither is the person that angered us*! We are all sinners saved by God’s grace!
  + So let us show mercy and compassion to others as God has shown towards us.
  + If you show no mercy, neither will God have mercy on you.

**Proverbs 3:3,4** - Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

There is Forgiveness

**Psalm 103:12** - As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

**Psalm 86:5** - For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

* **To forgive is to pardon and forget the wrong that was done against us** & not dig it backup years later.
  + **ILLU**: When our parent gets angry at each other they will dig up the old sins.
* **He is always ready to forgive when we genuinely turn back to him.**
  + To ready to forgive, means that any time we return back to God and confess our sin, *God is ready to forgive us right there and then*.
  + He is not going say I’ll forgive you a month or a year from now. “Oh, sorry, I am not ready to forgive yet, I am still fuming!” or “I haven’t forgotten about the last incident yet!”
  + It does not mean that he’ll forgive only if we go back and show proof that we changed our ways, or go back and undo the things that we have done wrong.
  + *God is ready to forgive without conditions, when we are ready to turn back to Him.*
* **What is the reason that some people keep their anger forever? Locked up in a bottle until it is ready to unleash**.
  + It is because that *they have not fully forgiven* those that have wronged them.
  + **ILLU**: An elderly lady once told me that her sister had miss-treated her when they were young. In her anger, she swore she will never forgive her and never speak to her again! She never did!
* **Our Lord Jesus, forgave all our sins; past, present, and future.**
  + Can we not forgive someone that had wronged us? Don’t let stubbornness stop us.
  + How many times shall we forgive those who have wronged us? *70 x 7 – Lord Jesus*.
* **In our anger, is there TRUE forgiveness?** 
  + *Let us always be ready to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us*.

Conclusion

* **In our anger, let us make sure we include:** 
  + Righteousness, Patient, Brevity, Mercy and Compassion, and Forgiveness.
* **There is one more very important principle that we must remember** that will help you put all these into practices and succeed!
* **Our Lord Jesus said a new commandment I give unto you**
  + **“***Love one another, as I have loved you***”.**
* **Why does this one command matter and helps us in our anger?** Because…

## *Love covers a multitude of sins*