

Two Angry Men

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Then *Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan*, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame ...? "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"

Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

So *Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger*, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

From I Samuel 20:30-34

This is the sad story of two angry men - an angry father and an angry son. They both were angry. Why were they angry?

I. Saul was angry because his agenda was not working. He wanted his son to be on the throne. God had chosen David. If Saul could kill David, then Jonathan could be king. Saul lashed out with vengeful words and threats.

Saul dishonored Jonathan's mother. He called her a rebellious woman. Apparently she did not always agree with Saul's behaviors. To him, this made her a rebel. Now Saul's son was following in his mother's footsteps.

How was Saul able to raise such a Godly son? Perhaps the credit goes to Jonathan's mother.

II. Jonathan was angry because his father was foolish and wicked. Jonathan asked his father why he wanted to kill David. Then his father then tried to kill him, his own son! Jonathan was so angry that he could not eat. He was grieved because he was ashamed of his own father's shameful behavior toward an innocent man. Jonathan was driven by grief, not by a personal agenda.

III. Are you an angry man?

You should be!

God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11).

God's men are not angry because of failed personal agendas.

God's men are angry at what makes God angry.

God's men are angry at sin.

Godly anger is not sin!

Saul's anger lashed out against people he considered to be his enemies.

Jonathan's anger was caused by grief because an innocent person was mistreated.

Saul only considered his own purposes.

Jonathan was moved by the desire for what was right.

Saul's anger was sin.

Jonathan's anger was not sin!

Current events note –

An investigation of sexual abuse of children by clergy discovered that the church leaders were not angry about what had happened. They had learned to suppress anger and to accept sin without righteous indignation. How could this possibly be true? Churches, of all places and people, should be angry at sin.

Godly men have hearts that are, not only grieved but also, outraged by evil and sin.

The account of Saul and Jonathan illustrates the damage of sinful anger and the need for Godly anger. Godly angry is the remedy for sinful anger.

Be angry but do not sin (Ephesians 4:26).