

Saying NO to Anger and Lust

Keynote Verses

Anger: “Anyone who says “You fool!” will be in danger of the fire of Hell.”

Matthew 5:22

Lust: “It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.” Matthew 5:29-30

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The New is in the Old Contained

The Old is in the New explained

Anger kills: Cain and Abel

Lust deceives and destroys: Bathsheba and Tamar

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Cain: When anger escalates. Genesis 4:1-16

Escalation in four stages:

- Cain's offering is not acceptable. V5
- Cain becomes 'very angry and his face was downcast.' v5
- Cain deceives his brother: 'Let's go out into the field.' v8
- Cain attacks and kills his brother. V8

Cain made four mistakes, but God intervened between stages 2 and 3:

"Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." v7

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Cain: When anger escalates. Genesis 4:1-16

The results of anger and it's remedy:

- Denial: "Am I my brother's keeper?" v9
- Judgment: "You are under a curse and driven from the ground." v11
- Effect: "My punishment is more than I can bear...I will be hidden from your presence; ... so whoever finds me will kill me." vv13-14
- Remedy: Cain offered the wrong sacrifice, and needed to learn the importance of Genesis 3:21: 'garments of skin' means that sacrifice (in OT, of animals) is the only way to God's forgiveness. Abel offered not just any animal from his flock, but the firstborn.

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Lust deceives and destroys: Bathsheba and Tamar (2 Samuel 11:1-5)

Bathsheba: allured and taken advantage of. 2Samuel 11, 1Kings 2:13-22

- Married a foreigner, Uriah the Hittite. Eliam must have been a 'liberal' father, welcoming a convert into the family.
- Allured by the status and celebrity of the King – God-chosen, victorious, in every way overpoweringly attractive.

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Tamar: raped and rejected. 2 Samuel 13

- David's sin leads to his lack of insight and perception. vv6-7
- Amnon sees Tamar only for her physical beauty. He has no interest in her as a person with character and personality. vv 1-2
- Jonadab, Amnon's cousin, the cunning, scheming advisor. vv 3-5
- Amnon: When lust turns to hatred. vv15-18
- Tamar: a life destroyed. vv18-20
- Amnon: Murdered by Tamar's brother Absalom. vv28-29

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Lust for power: Bathsheba and Adonijah (1 Kings 1-2)

1 Kings 1

- David is very old, and his courtiers select Abishag, the most beautiful young woman in the land, to be David's last wife – actually his nurse.
- Conspiracy of Adonijah, David's eldest son and heir-apparent, along with Abiathar the priest and Joab the army commander.
- David learns of the conspiracy and makes Solomon King.

Think present-day politics: Cameron – May; Corbyn; UKIP leadership

- 1 Kings 2:13-23

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Anger kills:

- Recognising when we've made a mistake, repenting and changing.
- There's a point of no return, when we choose either to defuse or escalate our anger.

Lust destroys:

- Improper use of power and position: David
- Rape and rejection: Amnon
- Power plays: Adonijah