



Man Disrupted:

How Jesus changes men for the better

Devotion #2

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21a

A friend of mine was waiting at the mechanic's the other week when a disgruntled customer walked in and put him on blast. Old mate absolutely lit him up about how shocking the customer service had been, how mad he was about it, and what he was going to do about it! My mate just couldn't find a gap between insults to let him know that he didn't work there, so he had to sit out the whole routine and wait til the guy was done before letting him know he was barking up the wrong tree. The most awkward part about it was that the guy had to try wind himself back up again for the actual confrontation when the real employee walked in, but by then he was kind of a spent force, and what came out was a pretty limp complaint. It was funny because I could imagine doing the same thing – rehearsing a confrontation in my mind, psyching myself up to do it and then being a little embarrassed and deflated.

People actually love getting mad. Social media is full of ranting and raging. The internet is overflowing with videos of 'so-and-so completely destroys such and such'. We love watching people get mad, but we also love to be mad. We love it so much we actually relish it. We imagine a confrontation with a colleague or boss, and imagine ourselves confronting them, completely and effortlessly destroying the, and laying out before everyone how wrong and foolish they are. But why?

We love getting mad because it makes us feel righteous. Anger is a judging emotion. It's when you look at something and say, 'that's unjust'. When you get mad you look at someone else's sin, you focus on it, you judge it and it makes you feel – for a fleeting moment – righteous.

Innocent. Good. I think our culture is so addicted to rage because beneath it all, there is a deep longing to feel clean. All people were made to live in right relationship with their creator, God, and even though our culture has largely rejected the Gospel and even the concept of sin, there is still an unavoidable and abiding sense that we are deeply flawed, and in need of purification.

In the Gospel we have the most profound and unexpected antidotes to rage: imputed righteousness. 'God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf so that we might be the righteousness of God.' I suspect many people are raging because they are driven by a desire to feel clean and pure and righteous, but their effects are short-lived and illusory. In the Gospel there is a true and objective reason to know that we have been made clean. There has been a great exchange. Christ was treated in every way as a guilty sinner so that we may in every way be made as righteous as Him. Perhaps if we were to turn our minds and hearts to the truth and power of the Gospel more often, we would find ourselves less compelled to self-righteous, self-vindicating rants and rages!

Continued on next page



Man Disrupted:

How Jesus changes men for the better

Reflection Questions

1. When do you catch yourself 'ranting' about someone or something...either verbally or mentally? What do you think is driving your need to 'rant'?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 means that you are now credited with the righteousness of Christ. Think for a moment on the fact that your heavenly Father considers you to be as righteous as His Holy Son...how does that make you feel? Do you find it hard to believe?
3. How might a deeper sense of your justification before God lead you away from needing to justify yourself to other people?

Prayer

Father though I don't always feel it, I know that through Christ, you have made me new. Help me to remember that Christ has washed away my sin completely and made me righteous in Your sight. Help me to set aside the need to justify myself with angry ranting and instead to trust in your love and forgiveness. May my life bear the marks of the redeeming love of Christ in every way. Amen

BASECAMP

A Ministry of Katoomba Christian Convention

Katoomba Christian Convention
PO Box 156
Burwood NSW 1805

1300 737 140
info@kcc.org.au
www.basecampmen.com