



March 23, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Exodus 34:6-7

Introduction

This week explores God's characteristic of being 'slow to anger' from Exodus 34:6-7. Kevin Sneed explains that God's anger flows from His love and is different from human anger - it is controlled, measured, and directed at evil and injustice. The sermon challenges both those who view God as an angry tyrant and those who see Him as a permissive life coach, arguing for a balanced understanding of God as a good Father who is both loving and just.

Key Texts:

Exodus 34:6-7; Proverbs 14:29; Proverbs 16:32; Mark 11:15-18

Icebreaker

Can you think of a time when you felt justified in being angry, but you had to choose patience instead? How did that experience shape your understanding of anger and self-control?

Discussion Questions

1. In this week's message, Kevin expressed the idea that God's anger flows out of God's love. Does this idea make sense to you? Think of a time when you've felt angry because of your deep love for someone (e.g., a parent disciplining a child, a friend confronting destructive behavior). How does that experience help you understand God's anger?
2. As you reflect on your understanding of God, both historically and currently, have you tended to think more of God as angry or patient? What do you think shaped your views?

3. Once upon a time, the common conception of God was framed in “hellfire and brimstone,” whereas more recent conceptions have leaned heavily into tolerance and permissiveness. This week, Kevin acknowledged those recent trends, but with the added perspective that people actually do want God’s wrath in moments of personal and corporate injustice. Can you think of examples when you have absolutely wanted or welcomed God’s intervention in moments of injustice?
4. What is the key difference between God’s wrath, which is aimed at evil and injustice, and human wrath, which is often personal or impulsive? When you are wronged, do you focus more on the wrongdoing itself or on the person responsible?
5. **Read Mark 11:15-18 together as a group.** Kevin reminded us that Jesus is the ultimate expression of the person of God. Many often reference this story as justification for “righteous anger,” yet many commentators see this scene as years in the making, not a sudden instance of unexpected fury. The temple system had been corrupt for a long time. What does Jesus’ patience leading up to this moment teach us about how we should handle our own anger toward injustice?
 - a. How do you believe we as Christians can respond to pervasive evil and injustice in slow and righteous ways?
6. One of the best known descriptions of God says, “God is love,” yet as Kevin pointed out, the Bible references the wrath of God over 600 times. How do you think we as Christians can welcome the anger of a loving God, while not confusing Him as the personification of anger?

Key Takeaways

- God's anger flows from His love and is directed at evil and injustice
- Being 'slow to anger' means God is controlled and measured, not quick-tempered
- God is neither a permissive parent nor an angry tyrant, but a good Father
- God's anger is a responsive attribute to evil, while His essential nature is love

Notes