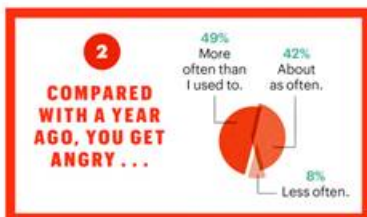


Weekly Action Plan

I considered having the ushers bar the doors this last Sunday. I didn't want anyone running out when I talked about how *sin corrupts the world* and that it's not just other peoples doing, but that *we are part of the problem* too!

Isaiah 64:1-9 is written in a way that really does exemplify how we tend to look at the world and the problem of sin. *Almost all of us start at the*

place of wishing God would come and deal with OTHER people who are making a mess of the world (Isaiah 64:1-2), but Isaiah doesn't stay in that place. He moves on to recognize that he and the nation that he cares about aren't pure people either. *Isaiah is honest enough to recognize that if God is going to come down and judge people for their sins, he and the nation he represents wouldn't escape that judgement either* (Isaiah 64:5-7). The good news from the story? When Isaiah humbly asks for mercy, it is indeed made available to all in way the Isaiah couldn't of guessed for (Isaiah 64:5b&8&9) ultimately it comes through the work of Jesus on the cross!



Overheard:

"God's anger in the Bible is not like our anger.

It's not crankiness.

It's not ill temper.

It's not ego.

It's not explosion.

It's not out of control.

It's a settled, fixed, implacable, irrevocable, incorruptible opposition to injustice and evil." -Tim Keller

Talk it out: Make some time to sit down at a kitchen table, or at a coffee shop, and explore with someone some of the topics we talked about on Sunday.

-How would you answer the survey question from above: "Compared with a year ago, you get angry: A. More often than I used to. B. About as often. C. Less often.

-What factors dictated the answer you gave?

-What would it take for you to let go of some of the petty, selfish things that get you angry?

- Over all do you agree with the following statement:

"The more trust that you have that God is the perfect judge, the less inclined you'll feel to take justice into your own hands. A lack of trust in God's justice will increase your desire to take justice into your own hands." ?

- Based on your answer to the above question, what do you find to be true about your trust / lack of trust in God's wisdom in governing the universe?

-Are you good at humbling confessing your sin throughout the day?

-Is it evident that you take Jesus' command to "pray for your enemies" seriously (Matthew 5:44)? How does praying for your enemies reflect that you have a heart for the things God does?

Pray it in: Make some time this week to pray. If you need to, confess that you have been more worried about other people's sins than you have been about your own. Humbly ask God to help you become more aware moment by moment where sin is exhibiting its power in your mind and through you actions. Thank God for the forgiveness that He made available to you! Praise Him for where you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life!

Store it up: Committing verses to memory is a key way to hold on to the truths of God. Here is a great one for this week: "You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry." - Isaiah 64:5.