

INDIGNANT

Have you ever been really angry? I mean really angry. So angry about something unjust or after having been offended that you snapped at someone because of it?

There are a few occasions in the gospels where we see this sort of thing. The disciples were indignant about James and John asking for a special throne in Christ's kingdom. They were also indignant that the woman wasted precious perfume in anointing the feet of Jesus. The Pharisees were indignant over Jesus healing on the Sabbath.

Jesus was mentioned as indignant once too. It wasn't when He drove the moneychangers out of the temple. It was at the mistreatment of children. The disciples would not permit the children to come to Jesus. He was indignant that the children were being hindered from the kingdom of God.

Jesus takes the treatment of children very seriously. He doesn't mince words. He speaks plainly. We should not be hindering our children from the kingdom. We should be doing the opposite. We should be encouraging a blessing from Jesus. We should let our children lead our family prayers if they choose to. Kids are generally better at public prayers anyway. We should encourage Godly conversation and direct their thoughts toward Him. We should love our children unconditionally because the world will not. We should also be open to learning from our children's behavior and try to see the heart behind the action.

Not long after Jesus clears the temple, He was busy healing the lame and the blind as they came to Him. The chief priests became indignant this time that there were children shouting praises to God. Jesus then rebuts their complaint saying that God has created children to praise Him and then leaves. It is almost as if He storms out of the room, or as it might be said today, "He dropped the mic."

I can almost hear the chief priests saying, "Please don't shout in the church building." Obviously, there needs to be a sense of decorum. But this isn't acting like a wild child, this is seeing God so strongly that you can't be silent. You have to literally shout for joy! When I was young, we sang *How Great Thou Art* for a couple who was moving away. That was their favorite song. It was mine too. I remember trying to be the loudest singer during the song because it was a special moment of praise.

When you hear children sing loudly and off key, tell them how beautiful their voice is. Make it a point to tell them to their face. When a prayer is lead or a scripture is read, tell them how God is blessed by their praying and/or reading. If we are going to raise up Godly children in our church, we have to be purposeful in guiding them to the glory of God. If we do, we might hear some shouting. We might even find ourselves shouting in praise right along with them.

--Alex Swango