



## What Made Jesus Mad—Week One: When Insiders Get In The Way

**Connect:** When is a time you've felt yourself get really upset and angry? Follow up question: Were you angry about the right things or did you realize later that you shouldn't have reacted that way?

### Grow

1. We often don't know what to do with Jesus' righteous anger. Have you ever thought about Jesus being angry? What does righteous anger mean?
2. **Read Mark 11:15-18.** How had the religious leaders misused the Temple's layout to create a social hierarchy and how had they turned it into a "den of thieves"?
  - a. Verses like this show a side to Jesus that makes some people uncomfortable but they give us clear pictures about what matters most to God. What is this story showing us that matters to God?
3. Religious people have a tendency to make outsiders feel unwelcome in the presence of God and it aggravates Jesus to no end. *Religious people value rules over relationships.* In what ways have you seen that happen? What kind of rules did Jesus break to build relationships? (Hint: Luke 13:10-17)
4. **Read Hebrews 10:11-12.** What does Jesus' sacrifice mean to you? What does that mean for every outsider?
5. Jon defined a sacrifice as "giving up something we love for someone we love more." Then he illustrated what Jesus gave to people during his life (time, friendship, love, joy, life). Are there any of those that you can give to someone this week? What specifically?
6. What made Jesus mad is this: *Insiders getting in the way of outsiders.* He has an unrelenting heart for people far from God. How can we help outsiders move to the inside of God's family?
7. Sacrifice begins with "death to self" which gives life to someone else. Do you need to die to greed and instead choose generosity? Do you need to sacrifice your need to be right, or need to be heard, or need to be the center of attention?
8. At the end of our lives Jesus won't say "Well said", Jesus is going to say "Well done". How can you ensure that you back your words up with action?

**Pray:** Take time to praise God for removing every obstacle and clearing the path for outsiders to become insiders. Thank Him that He came to us. He sacrificed because He loved us. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you throughout this week of ways that you can die to self and sacrifice for others.

**Next:** Hebrews 10:24 says, "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." What's the kindest thing you've ever done for anyone? Whatever it was, do it again this week, then again the week after that, and again the week after that.