

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #11

**Eliminating Anger, Contempt And
Cultivated Lusting From Our Lives**

THE ORDER OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUND

- First, who is well-off, and how can you be well-off? Matt. 4:17-5:16—ALIVE IN THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.
- The principle of true goodness. Matt. 5:17-20
- The order in becoming good—start by getting rid of anger, contempt and cultivation of lust. Matt. 5:21-32

WHAT IS ANGER

- **It is will to harm.**
- **Caused by your will being crossed.**
- **An insult to your kingdom.**
- **Anger is not a sin, but only rock-solid Christian character can keep it innocent.**
- **Everything you can do with anger you can do better without it.**

WHAT IS ANGER? #2

- **Anger is always “righteous” in the moment.**
- **It is in your body and social relations and moves before you think.**
- **It will govern your life if you do not stop being an angry person.**
- **Our “mean Christians” again.**

STEPPING OUT OF ANGER

- **Surrender your will to God.**
- **Knowing that He is taking care of you, and your real interests are safe. (1 Peter 3:12 and 5:5-7)**
- **Now not getting what you want is not a ‘big deal.’**
- **That is the meaning of the cross in our day-to-day life.**
- **Stand for what is right, but not as a “personal matter.”**

A WORD ON CONTEMPT

- **Contempt is a matter of regarding something as unworthy, possibly worthy of harm or loss.**
- **“Dissing” someone.**
- **The use of filthy language.**
- **Contempt walks hand in hand with anger: makes anger easy and also issues from anger.**
- **Resolve to live without contempt**
- **The answer to contempt is love.**

LEAVING CULTIVATED LUSTING #1

- What Jesus is talking about in Mt. 5:27-32—
not looking and lusting but looking to lust.
- Distinguish: (1) thought of sin,
(2) inclination to sin [this is temptation],
and (3) readiness to sin.
- Adultery in the heart is (3), manifested by
dwelling in or inciting (2).

LEAVING CULTIVATED LUSTING #2

- **You make the decision to go no further than (1), the thought.**
- **You decide to train yourself to avoid (1) as much as possible.**
- **By viewing the person you encounter as “an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in god’s great universe.”**

LEAVING CULTIVATED LUSTING #3

- **By training yourself to take the initial signs which you used to use to get ready to cultivate your lusts as signs to bless, help, pray for the person in question.**
- **Since you have already surrendered self-will, getting what you want, you will not feel deprived.**
- **Agape love is the sure answer to lust.**

DISCIPLINES ARE INDISPENSABLE

- You will need to review what we previously said about disciplines.
- Disciplines enable us to do what we cannot do by direct effort.
- They work by indirection. They are not aimed at behavior modification, but the change our inner being so that we do behave differently
- Solitude and fasting, e.g., in relation to anger and lusting.