



Biblical Counselling UK

# ANGER

BEING CROSS – BEING CHRISTLIKE

## Anger in Leadership

Steve Midgley



# Angry leaders

Alex Ferguson – the  
hairdryer treatment



# Angry leaders

Using anger to get things done...

# Discussion

What kind of angry leaders have we experienced?

# The many faces of anger

Anger that...

...controls others

...bullies others

...demeans others

...excludes others

...speaks sarcasm

...is bitter, resentful,

...preaches sermons full of rebuke

# The anger / leadership connection

Angry because...

...you don't do what I say

...you don't treat me as I demand

...you won't follow where I lead

...you are stopping me succeeding as I want

# Numbers 20: 1-13

In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> They quarrelled with Moses and said, 'If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! <sup>4</sup> Why did you bring the LORD's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? <sup>5</sup> Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no corn or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!'

# Numbers 20: 1-13

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell face down, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>8</sup> 'Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so that they and their livestock can drink.'

<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him.

# Numbers 20: 1-13

<sup>10</sup> He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?' <sup>11</sup> Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

<sup>12</sup> But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.'

<sup>13</sup> These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarrelled with the LORD and where he was proved holy among them.

# Psalm 106: 32-33

By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD,  
and trouble came to Moses because of them;  
<sup>33</sup> for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,  
and rash words came from Moses' lips.

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<sup>12</sup> But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, '**Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites**, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.'

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# Discussion

- In what way do Moses' words and actions fail to honour God as holy?
- Does this help us understand why anger in a Christian leader is such a problem?

# Discussion

- If you had a chance to speak to Moses just before he went out to the people, all fired up and angry, what would you have said?

# Speaking to an angry leader (speaking to ourselves?)

- It's not about you
- God is in control, and that's why you don't have to be
- Be humble - God's leaders should never lord it over others
- We are never more than under-shepherds (1 Pet 5)
- God's people need words of grace much more than words of judgment
- It isn't our dignity and reputation that matters, but the honour and glory of the Lord
- Even if our church or ministry should decline and fail, the progress of the Kingdom is never in doubt