

Transcript:

came [Music] [Music] a reading from Galatians 5:22 and 23 but the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace forbearance kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control against such things there is no law an additional reading from Mark 14 3-9 while he was in Bethany reclining at the table in the home of Simon the leper a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume made of pure nard she broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head some of those present were saying indignantly to one another why

this waste of perfume it could have been sold for more than a Year's wages and the money given to the poor and they rebuked her harshly leave her alone Jesus said why are you bothering her she has done a beautiful thing to me the poor you will always have with you and you can help them anytime you want but you will not always have me she did what she could she poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial truly I tell you wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world what she

has done will also be told in memory of her the word of the Lord thanks Brady thanks so much Brady um Brady is one of our awesome student leaders in the youth ministry I've had a ton of fun getting to know him over this past year um he just does a great job leading in our students and it's such a cool kid um he's also an amazing cellist I think I understand so he's a he's a really cool dude thanks for reading today um I want to take a moment before we dive into the message and actually want to just say

thank you to all of the people uh who participated I in prayed over a royal family kids um so if you were in the room um would you go ahead and stand up you didn't know I was going to do this you don't want me to be doing this but if you participated in royal family were a leader could you go ahead and stand up can we just give them a round of applause um they are an amazing team thank you guys so much uh for loving those kids um I got the privilege to go up on Wednesday uh for the birthday party so I spent Wednesday up uh at

royal family and just seeing seen the group of people we had from this church uh loving uh these children uh who have seen some of the worst things imaginable um and I want to share a quick anecdote with you uh Kay uh Szuji who's in the back um she doesn't want me talking about her I promise you that but um she sent an email to our staff in the

middle of the week just talking about what a challenging week it was um with uh the some of the issues and things that we deal with at royal family um and one of

the things that she shared was that most of this week it was a really tough week and I'd say even a little tougher than normal for royal family but there were a lot of Runners these kids um and many ways are running from activities and from things that they're supposed to be participating in and it I think is very indicative of the life that they've had to live um where children 6 to 12 uh have spent a lot of their life having to run from dangerous situations and don't know how

to be still and in that space uh K just shared this beautiful story of how wow it was it was actually a perfect picture of the Gospel um because so many of these people who went to royal family this week spent their entire week chasing after children um to try and show them the love of Jesus and if that's not a picture of the heavenly father who runs after all of us and chases after us when we run from him I don't know what is so thank you to that team thank you for your willingness to step into hard spaces um to see God work

for Renewal we're so grateful for that um would you all pray with me and we're going to dive in our message today Heavenly Father God as we continue this series on renewal uh Lord we are just so thankful for the work you've been doing in our church and in our community uh God we pray for a continued presence of the Holy Spirit and awareness of what you're doing in our midst God we ask that today as we look at the fruit of the spirit gentleness um God I just ask and pray that that we would open our

hearts uh to you that um as we go to scripture today God I pray that that your Holy Spirit would work in our lives God for the places in our life where we maybe need to cultivate this fruit of the spirit of gentleness um I ask that you would do your work and um open us to that and it's in Christ's name that we pray amen all right so we are as we've kind of said a few times we are in this series renewal where we are looking at the fruit of the spirit and what it looks like to cultivate Beauty out of

the Brokenness of our lives and the big idea of this series is that we want to become more like Jesus as a community that's kind of our mission and vision and one of the ways we believe we can do that is by focusing on the fruit of the spirit we want to

become more like Jesus we want to behave like him we want to believe like him we want to act like him we want to do what he did in the world as followers of Jesus and we want to become more like him and so as we've been exploring this idea of

cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives we've been exploring this idea that when we walk in step with the spirit when we are becoming more like Jesus when we are allowing the spirit to work in our lives then it produces the kind of fruit that all of us want in our lives fruit like more money more happiness more I'm just making sure you guys are paying attention right like you guys some of you were nodding and then I said that and you're like wait what no good be critical thinkers that's awesome no

that's not what we're after we actually believe that the world is chasing after those sorts of things and it is leading to a place where people are actually quite miserable where instead of being full of love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control instead we have a culture around us that looks much more like hatred or anxiety or Despair and Brokenness and so one of the things we believe as a community is that as we become more like Jesus we are actually

stepping into what it means to be a counterculture in a culture that is characterized by Brokenness and how we can cultivate and develop these things by the power of the holy spirit in our lives and so today what I'd like to talk with you about for the next few minutes is gentleness in a culture of outrage gentleness in a culture of outrage I think it can feel impossible in our day and age and in our particular culture to feel like it we can escape this idea of outrage someone somewhere is always

outraged about something cable news social media the comment section on blogs if people still blog and the like family dinners right like everybody is always upset about something and did you know that over the last few years there have actually been some social science that have looked at this idea of outrage in our culture and what they have discovered is that there's actually this kind of um Paradigm that people are using in those spaces social media cable news even its bled into sports news and like hot takes and what

they have found is that if you say something or run a headline or have a tweet that has some sort of identity around making people angry it actually increases participation in that story or tweet or headline or whatever it may be and so what they've actually discovered is there's a couple key words that people can use and it's things like hatred or culture war or outrage or um profanities and if they use these words it actually increases participation 15 to 20% per word used and what I need you to

hear in that is there are literally people in this world who are their whole strategy for making money the entire game is trying to make you angry people are literally making money by making you angry makes you kind of mad doesn't it like it's a little upsetting like why is that your strategy and so in this culture of outrage how do we be a counterculture Community one that's characterized by gentleness in a culture of outrage how do we become a people who are even tempered when things don't go

our way how do we become people who pardon and forgive those who injure us how do we be a people who speak correction and also know when to remain quiet how do we be gentle this problem of outrage is not new to our culture it's existed for a long time and in fact Jesus encountered moments of outrage where people were upset about things he was doing or saying or how he was going about his business and people would be angry and outraged all the time at Jesus and we could have gone to a lot of different places in scripture today

but I wanted zero in on this particular story in Mark 14 because it's the story of Jesus interacting with a woman and with a group of people who become very outraged so if you have your Bibles and want to follow along Mark 14 we're going to be there the whole day and it said well not the whole day that would be a really long sermon all right just for like the next like 25 minutes or so all right and it says this in Mark 14 while he was in Bethany reclining at the table at the home of Simon the leper and I

want you to pay attention to that cause we're going to look at something in a moment about the location this story takes place while they were reclining at the table in the home of Simon the leper a woman came with an alabaster jar a very expensive perfume it was made of pure nard and she broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head some of those present were saying indignantly or they were outraged to one another why this waste of perfume it could have been sold for more than a Year's wages in the

money given to the poor and they all began to rebuke her harshly now this story in scripture is actually a very unique story in that it's one of a handful of stories that is repeated in every single gospel and there's only a handful of stories that we actually have in every single gospel but what's fascinating about this particular story is even though it's repeated in all four gospels each gospel gives a little bit of a different spin on the story and particularly around the location where this story takes place and the people

who were outraged and who was outraged about this story so when this story is told in Matthew 26 the story takes place in the same location it takes place in Simon the Lep's house but the people who are outraged in that story are the disciples the followers of Jesus his closest followers see what this woman has done and they think to themselves how dare she waste all of this money all of this perfume that was so expensive on the feet of Jesus why not give it to the poor so the disciples are outraged but then in Luke

7 it's the same story all of the details are the same except for the location it's a Pharisee who has invited Jesus to participate in a dinner at his house and the woman comes in and the person who's indignant or outraged in that story is not the disciples it's the Pharisees and then in Luke John which actually isn't the gospel just John 12 uh the location is at Lazarus's house and so it's a completely different location but the person who's indignant in that story is Judas who you may know is the

person who went on to betray Jesus and what he says the reason he's so upset about what happened is because this woman shouldn't have been wasting all of that money she should have put it into the communal Bank the disciples had so that they could give it to the poor but we get this fascinating editorial note where John says he didn't actually care about the poor he was a thief and just wanted to steal the money and take it for himself and but in Luke when the Pharisee is outraged and indignant it's

not about the poor at all it's actually because the woman who is doing all of this is a prostitute and how dare a prostitute come into his house and communicate with Jesus and touch Jesus and do this thing and then in Mark 14 the story we just looked at the location is the same as Matthew Simon the leper but the people who are indignant and angry are just some of those who are present which I think is Mark's way of saying like I'm just saying everybody there was upset about something someone somewhere is always outraged about

something so why all the differences in the different gospel accounts do they remember it wrong do some people have the story right some people have it wrong not at all I think each of these gospel writers is trying to draw attention to different elements of the story and who is upset in this story and why they are upset and outraged and so you can see the different reasoning you can see the different people and Mark just kind of encapsulates all of it and he says some of these people that were there they were just upset because

they were outraged and then the different gospels show us a little bit more detail about who was upset and why because someone somewhere is always outraged about something and so we see the Pharisees they're kind of upset and outraged because simply of who this woman was they didn't like the fact that she was a prostitute and a sinner they didn't think Jesus should associate with people like her now I'm sure none of you have ever experienced that kind of outrage where you are simply upset and angry because of who someone is right

it's that kind of space where maybe someone dresses a certain way that makes us upset or they believe a certain way that makes us upset or they vote a certain way that makes us outraged and when we see them we just think man they just have it all wrong like I know the right answers they're going about life the wrong way and it leads us to this place of outrage so many times in our life when we feel outraged about certain things in the world it's because we believe that we are right and when we feel we are

right and someone around us is wrong we feel outrage we know the answers we know the truth and we get defensive about our position or our person because we're right and they're wrong it's the easiest thing in the world to become outraged when someone around you is wrong and you're right now I lived this out in college in different ways because in college I was an inter mural referee um which was by far the worst job I've ever had in my life it was awful um and that forgive me if I've actually shared

this story before I don't actually remember and so you can tell me after like no we've heard this one before Paul get new material but in this particular job I had as an intermural referee um I was really intermural college sports at John Brown University in Silom Springs Arkansas really big stuff like if you win the championship at flag football

there like you're really doing well at life right like no it's so insignificant but people would take it very seriously and there was this

one guy in particular who um I don't remember his name if I did remember his name I would actually tell you to publicly shame him um but I'm not going to do that but he was angry all the time he was this little dude who was upset all the time in sports and he would try to fight people he was overly aggressive and there was one day while I was I was really trying him in a basketball game and I'm pretty sure he thought he was playing rugby cause he was just fouling constantly he was playing way too aggressive it

was so bad that at some point during the game I kind of thought it was a bit like I thought he was intentionally doing this like kind of outrageous thing because I kept calling fouls and then when it got to the final foul and it was time to he fouled out of the game in the first half he lost it he lost it I mean was like oh this isn't a bit like you actually thought you were doing so no like you're done you found out he got so angry he started cursing at me yelling at me he was he was outraged he

got so mad he took off his shoe and threw it at my head I'm not lying at which point he threw the shoe at me and I threw him out of the game we went like face to face or like kind of like face to face like this and sorry I just got to get some Jabs in I'm sorry I love yeah all right and uh and so I threw him out and it was this whole deal we had to go before the like Dean's office and have this conversation he was literally like expelled from inter mural Sports for the rest of the year it was this

whole deal but in this moment he thought he was right and I thought I was right and it led to this place of outrage he was totally wrong I was absolutely right every single one of those was a foul and so I had to throw him out of the game now I'm sure you've never reacted like this dude and been so angry about a situation that you were so right it led you to a place of outrage I'm sure that was just him but we sometimes get outraged about things where we feel like we are right but that that's kind of the

Pharisees in the story they feel like they're outraged and have a reason to be outraged because they're right they know the truth and this woman is not who she is supposed to be the disciples it seems like were outraged by what she did they're upset because they thought she was wasting money why not give this money to the poor and there's

something about the disciples in this story where their outrage comes from feeling like something has been done wrong or maybe even that they have been wronged

which is often a place that we see outrage in our own lives when we feel like there is an injustice when we feel like someone around us has wronged us it is the easiest thing in the world to become outraged now another basketball story I'm pretty competitive and I love to play basketball in fact I'm stupid competitive like it's actually embarrassing sometimes how competitive I am and I play wreck league basketball and I've been known from time to time to carry it a little too far in my competitiveness and so there's this one

particular story where I was playing basketball Thursday nights with League South Suburban it's not a big deal it's so like half the guys can barely walk and we're playing basketball okay like it's not a thing but in this one particular game I felt like I was having a good game and I got a steal from this dude I picked his pocket so clean it was like best steal of my life it was an awesome play and as I'm down the court to like dunk it no I can't dunk but as I was down the court after the steal the

whistle blows and suddenly I realize the ref called a foul and in that moment I took the ball slammed it On The Ground started yelling at the ref about how that was the worst call I've ever seen and I even said something to the degree of like that never happens for me I never get good Steals and you just took it away from me like absurd so so dumb I get a technical foul I have to sit out of the game for like two or three minutes because that's what they do in in this referee now to make the story

even more embarrassing I think it was like the next week or maybe a week later if it makes me feel a little better um where we had Fall Fest and we were all hanging out at fall fest and some someone showed up at Fall Fest from my team and he's going through Fall Fest with his family we run into each other and he's like oh hey man like good to see you like how's it going and he's like what are you doing here do you guys live in the area I was like oh no no I actually I work at the church and he like could you not he goes like the

custodian or like what and I was like no no no I'm like a pastor on staff and he goes oh that's cool man and then he just looks at me dead in the eyes like I didn't know pastors



could get texts and then he just like we just kind of like went our separate ways and I was like he's never coming to church here like he's just not going to be a church here and in that moment when I got this technical foul I felt like I had been wronged and some of you who play Church Softball I know you totally can't relate

to that story at all right there are different and it's all here's the thing like I'm sure as you hear this story of me being a referee or losing it at a referee you can see the parallels right like and here's the truth is that I I think so often in our lives and I just did it with these two stories when we feel like we are right we can Center ourselves and it leads us to a place of outrage or when we feel like we have been wronged we feel like there's an injustice against us it leads us to this

place of outrage and we are so good we are so skilled so skilled at centering these stories about our experience our point of view and justify our reaction to things that happen in our life and in our world and it's mostly fun in games when it's wck league basketball or inter mural Sports at John Brown University but when it comes to actual real life and we find ourselves outraged about the people closest to us or something going on in our world and we take that out on the people closest to us

man that can cause some damage can't it like that can actually lead to a place of heartache and hardship and broken relationship outrage is very rarely beneficial for our lives or for our relationships but someone somewhere is always outraged about something and so the question for us is before we go any further in this message is what causes you to feel outrage when do you lose it when are those moments in your life where you say something that you wish you could take back where you do something that you

thought you would never do because you have Justified your outrage you have bought into this culture of outrage because culture will tell you like yeah let that ref have it and when someone wrongs you like let them have it tell them what's up and where are the places in our lives where we have given into or been shaped by this idea of outrage in our culture see I think the fruit of the spirit gentleness is a a counterbalance a counterculture to this idea of outrage and we actually see in Jesus in the

story how he responds to this moment of outrage because it would have been so easy for Jesus to see all of these people who are outraged and for him to become just as outraged and respond in the same way as the Pharisees or the disciples or Judas I mean he knew all of their inmost thoughts do you realize what Jesus could have done to these people in this moment like oh you're outraged about her let me go down the list of all the things you did this week like Jesus could have done that but he doesn't and look at how he responds this

woman walks into the room and what we have to understand from the context of this story is this woman she's probably a prostitute she has been misused mistreated and abused by men most of her life she has been living by selling her body to others in order to just have food on the table incredibly incredibly vulnerable person and she hears that Jesus of Nazareth this Rabbi who's been going from town to town and she's heard stories about how he heals people who are sick or even interacts with people

like her and he doesn't condemn people like her but shows love and compassion and forgiveness to them and she thinks In This Moment Like if I could just get in his presence maybe he would have something for me too and so she walks into this room where all of these men are reclining at a table and you can imagine as she walks through the door their response the murmurs that begin to show up because they know who she is and they know that she is not supposed to be in that room with them and then she

walks over to Jesus and they begin murmuring even a little louder like what's Jesus going to do he's about to tell her off he's going to get her out of the way like she shouldn't be here and then she breaks this jar of perfume and anoints Jesus' head she touches him and then this this murmuring Echoes into a crescendo where people are angry and outraged how dare you can't touch the rabbi you shouldn't be here who do you think you are and in that moment when all of her embarrassment and vulnerability is laid bare before this

room of men look at how Jesus responds Let her alone said Jesus why are you bothering her she has done a beautiful thing to me the poor you will always have with you and you can help them anytime you want Jesus cuts through all of their stuff and essentially says if you care about this poor so much then why aren't you doing so you've

had plenty of opportunity to care for the poor that's not why you're outraged in this moment but you will not always have me she has done what she could she poured

perfume on my body beforehand to prepare me for my burial Jesus essentially says she's the only one in this room who truly understands who I am and what's about to happen in my life because Jesus is about to go to the Cross he says truly I tell you wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world what she has done will also be told in memory of her which I think is actually probably one of the reasons while why every gospel writer recounts the story is because Jesus literally said when you preach the gospel make sure this story

is in there so Jesus responds notice how he responds with gentleness to this woman in this moment of outrage where everyone is pushing back against her and condemning her mocking her ready to throw her out you have to realize that that women in that culture had been stoned for less and in that culture Jesus is so gentle with her and yet so so strong against these men who would condemn her and I think this is really important for us to understand because I think there's a misconception we have about gentleness

we think of gentleness as being weak or we think of gentleness as being something where you know if someone does something wrong to you then you just have to kind of take it you can't say anything you can't push back if you want to be a gentle person and yet what we see in this story is not that at all Jesus is gentle and compassionate with this woman but with the Pharisees and the disciples and everyone who is outraged Jesus shows this type of strength and I think it's actually a perfect picture of what true gentleness

is because gentleness is not weakness it's not silent it's not passive it's not reserved and it's not quiet gentleness is strength under control it's strength under control and what you have to understand is that in Paul's understanding is he's writing about the fruit of the spirit and in Jesus understanding as he talks about himself and calls himself gentle it's not this idea of passivity or weakness but it's best understood in that context as a wild animal who has been tamed so if you see the word gentleness the

word picture I want you to have in your mind is like a wild stallion that's been trained and tamed to be a racehorse or a wolf that's able to be a house pet and play with children or a lion that's able to lay down with a lamb that is true gentleness strength under control and Jesus in this story and so many others shows incredible gentleness in two ways he protects and he confronts so for the Pharisees and the disciples who wanted to condemn this woman Jesus protects her against these people he was sensitive to her and

he defended her needs he was sensitive to her obvious embarrassment in this moment he meets her in the space he elevates her and what she has done and he has her backing but he also at the same time confronts the Pharisees and the disciples he essentially says if you care about the poor so much or you care so much about this woman's history that then it's not actually about those things the fact that Jesus was gentle does not mean that he was wimp or never raised his voice or never stood up against others on the contrary Jesus

could speak the truth very boldly and confront people when necessary but here's the difference is he did not do so returning kind for kind he was not aggressive Jesus never bullied or belittled in fact he stood up for the bullied and the belittled but he did so in a way that was gentle with strength under control see gentleness shows itself when we've learned a Christlike response in our ways that we respond to conflict so when I respond to conflict I like to return kind for kind I like to match

tone I like to elevate my voice when someone elevates their voice at me I love to roll my eyes or I love to have some sort of expression on my face that just lets people know about my state of outrage but not Jesus responds with gentleness under control under control and so here's another question for you if you ask the people who are closest to you in your life and you said hey do you experience me as a gentle person what would they say do you experience me as a gentle person see my guesses for many of us in

this room and I'm speaking to myself as well is that this area of gentleness is something that we need to cultivate in our lives it doesn't come supernaturally to us in fact it only comes supernaturally to us we need the Holy Spirit to cultivate the fruit of gentleness in our lives because it doesn't come naturally I want you to think actually for a moment that this this goes all the way back to like very early in life if you've ever spent time around like a newborn or a toddler that like six month

to 18 to two months to two years that kind of range and you see one of I want you to pay attention the next time you're around one of those spaces you see a family you're welcome to observe my family we're a lot of fun we're a little crazy but you'll see this take place and that we have to constantly tell my daughter or my son oh be gentle be gentle because my daughter she gets so excited about playing with her little brother but he's smaller than her she doesn't know her own strength and so

she's constantly like yanking on and pulling him this way pulling him over and he gets upset she like gets in his face and she's not gentle and so we have to say be gentle be gentle be gentle with my son he just discovered like two weeks ago puppies and dogs and he thought they were awesome but if you've ever seen most babies interact with that like it's not like they're like oh yeah I'll just pet the puppy it's like I'm going to bite their face off like they just have to grab the ears they're pulling on the whiskers and

and there there's no gentleness gentleness does not come naturally to us we need the Holy Spirit to work in our lives to produce the fruit of the spirit of gentleness so I'd actually like to return to this story because I think there in this story we see Jesus interacting with how to be gentle in a situation of outrage and here's the thing I'm going to give you three steps to move from outrage to gentleness they're oversimplified I you know they're fine whatever uh I need you to know that's not the point of

the story like that's not what the author's intent was and I'm not trying to misuse scripture but it is fascinating to me when you look at this story how Jesus interacts with gentleness in a moment of outrage and this is just a few things that I think we see in this story so I want to go back to it and it starts in verse six and it says leave her alone like Jesus immediately just stops all of the outrage and the anger and he says like stop it you cannot treat this person this way but notice what he says next he

he says why are you bothering her why are you bothering her he kind of turns it back on them and I think there's actually something in this if we want to move from outrage to being people who are more gentle there is such an important question here of why are you so outraged that's essentially what Jesus asked them in this moment why are you so indignant why are you so upset it is so important in moments where we begin to feel that that that like volcano about to erupt to stop pause and

ask ourselves why am I so upset right now what am I so angry about what is it that has me so on edge and I will give you this uh and I've heard this so many different places it's mental health areas it comes from AA all these different things but usually when I'm about to be outraged it comes down to this acronym halt usually it has something to do with the fact that I am hungry or I am angry that I feel lonely or that I'm tired and so maybe I come home from work and I haven't eaten enough that day and so I I

begin to feel this outrage and anger about what's going on in my home but it really it's just because I'm hungry or because maybe I didn't sleep the night before and so one of the ways that we can move from outrage into a place of being gentle is being aware of why we are so upset about the things going on in our world and here's why this is so important is we're actually told that the reason Judas gave for why he was so upset didn't have anything to do with the real reason the heart root of

the issue and so many times in our life we can think we are outraged about one thing but truly it's just because of something else we don't know our true motivations and we don't know our true trigger points and I want to take a moment very briefly and I very rarely do this but I want to talk directly to the men in this room and particularly fathers and husbands and I want to in just this moment and I'm not saying that that other people in our community or other demographics or women or if you're a

single man that you don't struggle all of us can struggle with outrage and scripture addresses us very particularly about outrage that all of us can feel but there are a few points in scripture where it particularly calls out husbands and fathers as if it knows that that we husbands and we fathers have a particular bent towards struggling with this idea of outrage and so guys I want you to lean in for a moment I want you to pretend that we're just sitting around a campfire right because all good

conversations with guys happen around a campfire in Colossians 3:19 it says this it says that husbands are not to be harsh with their wives and Paul then goes on to instruct fathers do not embitter your children in your anger or they will become discouraged see scripture says that husbands and fathers need to be cautious about how we speak to our wives and how we correct our children see gentleness under control means that when we respond to our wives or to our children that that we have our

emotions under control even if we have had a difficult day and I want to be really honest for a moment this is something I struggle with and this is coming more as a confession than conviction but I think it's something many of us need to hear I think there are many men in this room who are husbands and fathers that instead of being the men God has called us to be we are acting like children and what I mean by that is if you ever have been around a child or a baby when things do not go their way

they become outraged when they don't get what they want when their day doesn't look like they had hoped when they feel tired or upset or angry they become outraged they have no ability to control their emotions but men some of us in this room act like little children when we don't get our way and when we get upset and when things don't go the way we want and what scripture says is that if we want to walk by the spirit then we need to be gentle and how we talk to our wives and to our children and that when

our day does not go how we want when our boss screws up something at work when we feel like we are stuck in the job that we don't want when we feel like our house is falling apart when we feel like things aren't clean the way they're supposed to be how we respond in gentleness is whatever those frustrations or emotions that want to come out as outraged they need to be under control and gentle that we are called all to be gentle with our wives and with our children and I I'm saying that to you as

one who is sitting around the campfire needing to hear the exact same thing that we need to be called towards gentleness and how we interact with our families if that makes you angry or a little outraged you can always email Larry he's going to be back in two weeks and you can just give that to him no I'm just kidding kid I'd be happy to talk with you more about that so step one ask why you are outraged step two I think a question we can ask is what is Jesus perspective In This Moment you'll notice

that that everybody who's outraged they have one perspective oh she's wasting money oh she's a sinner oh she's not supposed to do this she's not supposed to be here and Jesus has a very different perspective he says she's actually the only one who knows that I am the Messiah she's the only one who understands I'm about to go to my tribe into my death she's the only one who gets it Jesus has a very different perspective about what makes us outraged sometimes and so one of the questions we can ask is what is Jesus perspective on

this situation when everyone is getting outraged when everyone is upset when everybody is angry about something going on in the world what was Jesus perspective in this space and the third question what is a Christlike response gentleness doesn't necessarily mean saying nothing and it doesn't mean receiving someone else's outrage just lying down although sometimes it can think of Jesus at his trial but a gentle Christlike response is strength under control so when we feel these moments of outrage when we feel upset when we feel

like the world's not going the way it should be or this person's doing this thing that they shouldn't be doing or when we experience someone rejecting us or hurting us or hurting those we love what is the Christlike response when do we need to be tender and compassionate when do we need to have strength and say the right thing when do we know we need to be quiet and when do we say the right thing not in aggression or retaliation but in gentle strength under control what is the Christlike response as I shared this is an area in

my life that that I have felt convicted on all week I I don't know in certain areas of my life that I'm a very gentle person I can far more often allow my mood or my day or the things that are going on in my world affect my attitude towards gentleness but this is why it's a fruit of the spirit see I think there are different people in our community who have different abilities in these fruit of the spirit I think some of us are just naturally more loving people than others I think some of us just

inherently the way God has created us we're more joyful than others and that's okay that's a gift that the body has but no matter who you are or how much of a kind of predisposition you have to these fruit of the spirit there will reach a point in your life where you will your tank around those different things will reach empty so even if you are a naturally joyful person or a naturally gentle person there will come a point in your life because you're hungry or tired or lonely or angry that you will reach

empty and it is in that moment what do you do you just allow yourself to become outraged or full of Despair or anxiety or whatever that is or do you turn to the Holy Spirit and pray saying Holy Spirit I'm out of gentleness I have no more gentleness left Fill Me by the power of your spirit and help me be gentle In This Moment see the fruit of the spirit are not something we just produce on our own we are empowered and when we



are walking by the spirit Walking In step with the spirit we are asking the spirit to help us in these

areas become more gentle and it's not like if we just pray and this is true I have been praying for over a year I've been praying through the fruit of the spirit over the last few years and I got to gentleness and I prayed for a year God make me a more gentle person and I got through that year and I was like I need to stick on this one a little longer I need to be more gentle and so I'm still praying through that and it's not just this overarching prayer like just help me be more gentle

it's in the moments where we feel like we are about to be outraged or upset or whatever the response might be that we ask the spirit to cultivate gentleness in us and here's why that can work is because we serve and believe in a God who is Unlimited in the fruit of the spirit you have probably noticed over the LA it's literally the spirit they're his fruit like you have probably noticed over the last few weeks that every single time we talk about one of these fruit we tie it back to God's character

see Jesus in the gospels there is one place where he describes his heart for the world and how his disposition is towards people and it comes in Matthew 11: 28-29 it says come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and I will find and you will find rest for your souls see Jesus one of the ways he describes his St actually it's the only place he describes his heart he says that he is gentle and so when we run out of

gentleness we can turn to Jesus and by the power of His spirit in this unlimited gentleness that he has he can Empower us and strengthen us to respond in gentleness to those around us as we close today I want to close with a time of prayer because I do think there are some people in this room who really struggle with this this fruit of the spirit and you know your life you know your story maybe grew up in a home that wasn't very gentle and you have just carried that through and you don't really know how to control your

emotions you don't know what it looks like to have strength under control because you've never been shown that and in this moment if that's you I would encourage you to go we're going to have some prayer ministers in the back of the room they're going to

have a Lanyon that says you know you need prayer they're very clear you can go to them and you can ask for prayer around this I will probably join you in that but here's the thing that I want to close with is I think there are so of you in this room who also have this

understanding when you think of Jesus you don't think of that Matthew passage you don't think of Jesus is gentle you think more of Jesus like the Pharisees or the disciples who are outraged and I think your posture towards Jesus is that you think maybe because of who you are or what you've done that he has outraged at you and what I need you to hear is that Jesus heart towards you is gentle it's gentle and if that is you I would also encourage you to In This Moment as the band plays this song you can reflect

you can go receive prayer you can have a conversation with Jesus right in your seat but I believe this it is when we truly understand that Jesus is gentle when we have experienced his gentleness and it is from that place that we can actually be gentle to those around us because we become more like Jesus amen we become more like Jesus and we cultivate that fruit and we can be like him that when people attacked his character he didn't have to be defensive because his security and his identity was in the father when people were

outraged about things that he did he just turned to them and could respond in strength under control instead of retaliation and that is what he has called us to do as his people some going to invite you to a space of prayer reflection whatever conversation you need to have with the Holy Spirit or with someone from our community I'd encourage you to do so when I finish praying Heavenly Father God we come before you and we do Lord we want to cultivate this fruit of the spirit in our lives God it is a stunning

characteristic about who you are and in a world and a culture full of outrage A Gentle Spirit is such a shocking thing to behold God even when we encounter gently I think so many times it kind of takes us back because we're not used to it Lord I pray specifically now for the people in this room who maybe don't know what it means to be gentle strength under control God I pray that they would turn their hearts towards you that the conviction of your spirit would speak to them and that they would long

to cultivate that fruit in their lives father I pray for those of us who don't believe that you are a gentle father that Jesus is not gentle with us God may your spirit speak so gently to our hearts into our souls right now in this moment God may you as only you can do cultivate us to be a community characterized by gentleness and a culture of outrage it's in the name of Jesus that we pray these things amen