

1. Navigating the Culture of Outrage (If we are paying attention at all, we realize that outrage is now a driving force in our culture. It seems like everything is breaking news; everyone is constantly offended by something; everyone is screaming at someone they hate; and few among us are offering alternatives--outrage has almost become an addiction. Listen to what a columnist in the Los Angeles Times wrote concerning our culture of outrage--**READ ARTICLE**. All of us are susceptible to engaging in this outrage--it really isn't that difficult. **Let me share a personal example--happened in Vilnius--tell story**. So how do we counter the rage; how do we not allow ourselves to get sucked into this vortex; and how do we offer an alternative to it? Let's start here--with a very direct and simple biblical principle)
2. "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." --Proverbs 15:1 (this is the act of speaking peace into the storm. We simply refuse to engage and instead offer a counter culture response founded in heavenly values)
3. (Remember I said we would be calling back to the texts we visited during the prequels--here we go) James 3:13-17 (we counter the culture of outrage, which is rooted in earthly, unspiritual wisdom with the culture of Christ rooted in wisdom that comes from above. Doing so sort of looks like this)
4. **Video Clip**. (We need to be the two guys calmly walking around in the storm--not giving into the hype and the outrage, but rather demonstrating that gentle answer--that kingdom alternative of a better way of handling conflict--of speaking peace and raising a harvest of righteousness, instead of a harvest of hate)
5. (I think Jesus reacted and put it best in a moment of outrage for his disciples--happened in Gethsemane when the temple soldiers came to arrest him. It was an outrageous moment and Peter and the other disciples got swept up in it--swords out and swinging, blood flowing, ears cut off, it was so on and out-of-control; a battle raging; outrage flowing and into it all Jesus spoke these words) Matthew 26:52
6. (So here it is--to not engage in the outrage and instead to offer an alternative; a better way we must) Put Our Swords Away--John 18:36 (period. Yes, there will be injustice; differences of opinions; outrageous acts; but raging back only stirs up the anger and offers nothing redemptive. Speaking peace into it. Putting away our swords and demonstrating the peace-loving, merciful, impartial and submissive wisdom from above--just as Jesus did in an unjust outrageous situation--is what will make real differences. If not then nothing will ever change except descending into more and more outrage. Let's be the first to put our swords away, turn it over to God and see what he can do through our peaceful, submissive approach. He did amazing things through Christ's---it is the reason we are all here. It is the redemptive approach.)