

At The Movies Msg 4 – Secret Life Of Pets 2
 What Makes Jesus Angry?
 Sermon preached by Dr. Rick Mandl
 Eagle Rock Baptist Church
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Welcome to Eagle Rock Baptist Church, it's great to have you with us as we continue our series At the Movies.

If you're new here, let me tell you what we're doing.

What we're doing is we're taking some of the biggest movies of the Summer and looking them through the lens of scripture.

Seeing if we can find an underlying spiritual theme in that movie that we can use as a talking point for our teaching that weekend.

Today we're looking at The Secret Life Of Pets 2

As the title suggests, the movie is a sequel.

And just in case you didn't see the first in this series let me share a little bit of background in order to bring you up to speed.

The first movie . . . follows the adventures of a terrier named

Max and his "human" - -

Which is the term that the animals in the movie use to refer to their owners. . .

Max's human in this movie is **Katie**

. . . and Katie adopted Max as a puppy

And it was love at first sight

And Max loves Katie more than anything

And through the years they build their relationship together.

And then one day Katie makes a decision to expand the family

And she did not consult Max on this decision.

She decides to surprise him and here's what happened.

Film Clip (Max Meets Duke 1:24)

What that clip doesn't show you is that Duke did not find that lost ball.

Max had found it earlier in the day and put it on the table, and he was anxiously waiting for Katie to come home so that he could show her that he had found the ball.

But he never got to have that opportunity because Duke arrived.

And it throws Max's world into chaos.

That's the first movie.

In the sequel **it's not another dog** that invades Max's world, but something altogether different.

Secret Life of Pets 2 Trailer (:36)

What the two movies have in common is that both of them, the original and the sequel, touch on the idea of the challenges of welcoming new-comers into the family.

In the first movie Max had been an outsider,

Max was unwanted, he was abandoned, and Katie opened her heart and her home and welcomed Max in

She adopted him into her family.

She rescued him

But when a new arrival shows up.

When Duke enters the scene, Max shuts down and says *"There's no space in this house for you."*

If you saw the movie, you know they eventually become friends.

In the second movie, it's not another Dog named Duke, but a baby named Liam that joins the family.

And for Max and for Duke, who had once been on the outside, but were now on the inside, it takes some getting used to.

This morning we're looking at . . .

What Made Jesus Angry?

Some of you might be really surprised by the idea of Jesus getting angry, because that's not what you think about when you think about Jesus.

For some of you when you think about Jesus what you think about is Jesus as kind, and gentle, and loving

Jesus as the good shepherd.

And that picture isn't wrong, it's just incomplete.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was human

Just like us. . .

"in every way that we are, except without sin" (Hebrews 4:15),

and so it's not surprising that He showed anger.

Read your Bible and you'll find that there were some things that angered Jesus.

There were some things that caused Jesus to get **"ticked off."**

We need remember that **"anger"** by itself is not a sin.

It can lead us to sin, **but it's not a sin**, which is why the Apostle Paul wrote. . .

"In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Eph. 4:26

There are times when you can't help but be angry, and Jesus at times was angry and this morning I want us to look at what it was that made Jesus angry.

And if you're surprised to find out that Jesus got angry, remember. . .

This Jesus that we worship . . .

- He went into the temple, and made a whip, and began rearranging furniture

This Jesus that we worship told people . . .

- ***"It would be better for you to have a rope tied around your neck and attached to a boulder and thrown into the sea"***

This Jesus that we worship called people names. . .

- ***"You brood of vipers
"You whitewashed tombs"
"You are sons of hell"***

Remember that the same Jesus who said . . .

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . ." Matthew 5:44

The same Jesus who said . . .

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest . . . I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

Also said . . .

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"

Matthew 23:33

Those are angry words . . .

So what was it that made Jesus angry?

That's what we're looking at this morning. . .

Right from the get-go I want to give credit where credit is due and tell you that a lot of the ideas an inspiration for this message came from a book I've been reading called. . . .

What Made Jesus Mad? (BOOK)

If you want to go deeper on this subject, I'd recommend that you give it a read or a listen on audible.

What made Jesus angry?

Four attitudes . . .

And the four attitudes were

1. Legalism

2. Judgementalism

3. Hypocrisy

4. Indifference to Suffering

Repeat . . .

Four things that really ticked him off, and the same four things that we still struggle with today.

Why Did These Things Make Jesus Angry?

Because all four of these attitudes, particularly when they are expressed by those on the inside. .

At that time, that was the Jewish religious leaders. . the Scribes and the Pharisees . .

And today, when they are expressed by those inside the church . . .

All four attitudes serve to do the same thing . . .

They Denied Access to the Father

Those attitudes but up barriers for people who are seeking to enter into a relationship with God. And that relationship was the very thing that Jesus left heaven, and came to earth to offer to us.

Study the anger of Jesus, and you know what's interesting?

What's interesting is that Jesus never got angry at people **"on the outside."**

He never got angry at **sinners** and **tax-collectors**, and **prostitutes**.

He **never got mad at people on the outside**.

The people he got mad at were **the people on the inside**, who were blocking the way for others to enter in.

That's why he said . . .

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces." Matthew 23:13

You might want to underline that phrase on your notes . . .

"You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces." Matthew 23:13

Jesus died to open that door.

To provide access for us to his Heavenly Father

When Jesus gave up his life on the cross for us, one of the things that happened was the **Veil in the Temple was torn**.

And that **was enormously** symbolic, because **behind that veil** was the Holy of Holies - - a **place where God's presence**, was believed to dwell and a **place where only the High Priest** could enter into - - and even then, **only once a year**.

It was **such a holy place** that when the High Priest would enter in there to offer a sacrifice, they would tie a rope around his ankle.

Why did they tie a rope around his ankle?

They did that in case he keeled over and died while he was in there performing his priestly duties, if that happened they could pull on the rope and get him out, because **that was how HOLY that place was**.

Nobody else apart from the priest, was allowed to go in there, **even to retrieve the body of a priest** who had died while performing his priestly duties.

Why was the temple set up this way?

With a veil or curtain separating the holiest of places from the rest?

It was set up that way **because God wanted us to know that he wanted a relationship with us**, and he set it up that way so that his presence could be right in the middle of the people. (17:00)

But he also needed the people to know that there was a divide, a barrier that could not be breached between our sinfulness and his holiness.

At the crucifixion, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom.

That was done by God, as a way of God saying, **Jesus has finished his mission**.

He has paid the price for us to have direct access to God.

And **because of that it made Jesus angry** whenever anyone tried to block that access.

I had an illustration of **what it's like to have ACCESS to someplace you normally don't get access to**, last year.

Every now and then, when timing and circumstances allow it, I like to visit folks from our church at the places where they work.

I know I get to see you here on weekends, but that's where you might spend maybe an hour a week, so it helps to round out the picture of who you are if I can see you, where you hang out the other 40+ hours a week.

A lot of you have really cool jobs, and get to work in cool places, but few of those are cooler than if you work downtown at . . .

The L.A. Live Plaza

And one of our members does just that.

He works at the

The ESPN Broadcast Center

He works as a cameraman for ESPN

And as a result he gets a lot closer to a lot of professional athletes than you and I will ever get.

One of the shows he works on is . . .

ESPN SportsCenter

And because I know him, and because I was going to have lunch with him, I was able to get access to some places I would never have been able to get in to without him.

Including the set of ESPN SportsCenter

And because of that, when I went to have lunch with him, I was able to walk onto that set.

But again, **this was only possible because of the person I was with.**

That was what gave me access.

If I had tried to walk into the ESPN studios on my own, and asked the security guards if I could take a look around, the only thing they would have shown me was “the door.”

But **because of who I was with**, I was granted access to **someplace I otherwise would not have been able to go.**

In a similar way, Jesus left heaven and came to earth, to **give us access** to someplace we otherwise, could not enter into, and **that someplace is heaven.**

And **if we get into heaven**, it **won't be because of our ability to talk our way in.**

It **won't be because of the good works we've done.**

It will **only be because of the one we're with.**

He's the one who will give us that access.

And **that's one of the reasons why Jesus became so angry** when he saw people who **Denied** others **Access** To The **Father**.

I want us to look at one example of what made Jesus angry, in

Mark 11:-15-18

You can follow along in your Bibles, or in your notes, or with the verses on the screen.

“When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace.” Mark 11:15-16

“He said to them, ‘The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.’ When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.” Mark 11:17-18

There is **a three-part statement** there in verse 17, that I don't want you to miss, and so I'm going to encourage you to **underline three phrases** in your notes.

The first one in verse 17 is . . .

“house of prayer.”

Go ahead and underline that, “House of Prayer”

The second one is. . .

“for all nations.”

And then the third one is . . .

“den of thieves.”

House of prayer, for all nations, den of thieves.

Why Did These Things Make Jesus Angry?

I'd like to us answer that by looking at these three things one by one.

Which one of these three things that we've underlined, was the thing that really made Jesus mad?

And I would answer . . .

All three.

But let's start with the one that maybe we most often misunderstand.

And the one I've put first on your notes is . . .

Den Of Thieves

We think that what it's talking about, is **selling stuff in church.**

“We shouldn't sell stuff in church cuz if we do, it's just like what was going on here when Jesus cleansed the temple.”

That's why in a lot of churches, in days gone by, you weren't allowed to have bake sales in the church building, or sell stuff for a team that was going on a missions trip.

You couldn't do that because that was the kind of thing that Jesus was mad about in the temple.

Two things we need to remember today.

#1 The **church is not the temple**

We are the temple

#2 **The den of thieves** is referring to the **price gouging** that they had going on.

They were **selling animals** for the temple sacrifices **at inflated prices**, probably something like what you saw DWIGHT doing in THE OFFICE when he tries to CORNER THE MARKET at Christmas on Princess Unicorn.

VIDEO – Princess Unicorn Final Combined - :54

That may be a good picture of what was happening in the temple.

Let's look at all three parts

Den of Thieves

House Of Prayer

For All Nations

Maybe the easiest way to understand how these three things relate is if you can see them visually

Diagram of the Temple

What you see on the screen is a simplified diagram of the way that the temple area was laid out at the time of Jesus.

- Here you have the Temple Building (inside of it was the Holy of Holies)
- Outside of the was the Court of the Priests
- Beyond that the Court of Israel
- Beyond that the Court of the Women (SEXIST, discriminatory)
Just one more thing that Jesus came to fix. . . **for in Christ there is neither male nor female, Jew or Greek, for we're all one in Christ Jesus.**
But at that time there was. . .

- Outside all of this was the **Court of the Gentiles**

And this was the place that you and me, unless you happen to be Jewish could come to - - -

The place where you could come and offer prayer, EVEN IF, you weren't Jewish

Designed by God this way, on purpose, so that everyone could have access to God.

Where had the Robbers set up their den?

Jesus tells us that they had done this in

the place "for all nations"

This is where they had set up shop . . .

In the outer court.

This was the place God had set to provide access to him, for the rest of the world, and this is the place that **the robbers chose to set up their stores.**

Why did they choose that space to set up shop?

Because, they didn't need that space.

They didn't worship there.

They had another space, further in, that they used for their worship.

The only ones who would be inconvenienced by this were the outsiders who were trying to draw near to God.

And **this was what made Jesus angry.**

Jesus was angry about . . . **INSIDERS, who were denying access to OUTSIDERS** who want to get to the Father. (28:11)

It wasn't as much about selling stuff as it was about blocking access, and **remember it wasn't blocking access for the insiders**, because they had their place where they could worship.

This was blocking access for the outsiders.

This was **blocking access for those who already felt furthest from the father.**

These people weren't just being robbed of their money, through the inflated prices of the robbers, but they were **being robbed of their access to God.**

And the reason it made Jesus angry was because **access to God was what Jesus came to provide.**

Our Memory Verse for this week . . .

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

Jesus came to provide you and me, and everyone else, a way to have access to the Father.

And if Father-access is what he came to provide, then it only makes sense that his most angry moments would be reserved for those who were **creating barriers to that access.**

What's the application for you and me?

At first glance you might say 'There's no application'

"I'm not setting up shop outside the church, trying to gouge people with inflated prices on stuff as they try and enter in."

I'm sure you're not.

But are there other ways you might be creating barriers.

Maybe even without knowing it....

Are there any **ways in which you're making it difficult for others to come to Jesus?**

Remember, the reality is you may be the only Bible that some people read, and as they read your life, are they getting an accurate picture of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

Are they getting a welcoming picture.

When they look at you do they see the qualities that God wants to be growing in each of us?

Things like. . .

"Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

And then when it comes to welcoming in those on the outside, who are looking for access to the Father, **are we more like Max or like Katie?**

Max, the Terrier who was glad to be a member of the family, but then felt like there was no room for anyone else, or Katie with an open heart to welcome in other who were looking for a family.

In the early church in Acts 15, one of the first disputes that arose, was over a simple question.

When it comes to those on the outside, who are trying to come in, ***"How much do they need to change, and become like us before we're willing to welcome them in?"***

A simple rule of thumb is, don't expect anyone to act like a Christian before they are one.

Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

May that be the message we're communicating to those who need to hear it.

Let's pray.