

**LARGE
PRINT**



**This Week's
Questions**

Week 4 – January 29, 2017 Sermon

Please review these questions and write your answers prior to attending your Life Group meeting. The sermon and these questions can be accessed each week at www.saintmatthiasoakdale.com/lifegrouphisweek

Note: Some of the Questions below have been taken or modified from The Divine Conspiracy Participant's Guide by Dallas Willard with Kevin and Sherry Harney, Trans-form notes at sojournerschurch.org, & Harper Collins' *Divine Conspiracy* Reading & Discussion Guide

Getting to Know One Another

1. This Sunday is Super Bowl LI (51). What do you like most about the Super Bowl?
 - a. watching the game
 - b. watching the commercials
 - c. the socializing of a super bowl party
 - d. eating the food
 - e. none of the above

Priming the Pump

2. Was there any one thing that you most agreed with or disagreed with from Sunday's message? What was it and why?

Application

Father John Quoted Dallas Willard as saying "there is nothing that can be done with anger that cannot be done better without it."

3. Can you think of anything our society teaches or your upbringing taught you can be done better with anger?
4. In *The Divine Conspiracy*, Willard asserts, "Anger indulged, instead of simply waved off, always has in it an element of self-righteousness and vanity" (p. 149). Do you agree that is always true?
5. When we don't allow our "buttons" to be pushed because we've dealt with anger, how does that become inconvenient for those who usually push our buttons?

6. The examples that Jesus gives in Matthew 5:23-26 are illustrations of what a kingdom person will characteristically do in such situations. In every situation, we have to ask ourselves, not “Did I do the specific things in Jesus’ illustrations?” but “Am I being the kind of person Jesus’ illustrations are illustrations of? What’s the difference between these?”

Verse 23-24 says “²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Imagine you are at church, about to receive Holy Communion, and you remember you are unreconciled with someone you have wronged.

7. Can you think of any reason why there could be value in still receiving Holy Communion before reconciling?
8. Can you think of any reason why there could be value in waiting to receive Holy Communion until after reconciling?

Further Application

9. Dallas Willard said, “**Filthy language and name calling are always an expression of contempt.**” Then Father John suggested that when a person uses filthy language that doesn’t seem to be directed toward anyone the contempt is directed toward life or the world as God has made it, or oneself. Do you agree or disagree? Did this resonate?

Going Deeper with a Spiritual Practice

**** You will NOT be required to share anything below this with the group.*****

10.
 - Ask God to bring to mind anyone whom you are presently holding anger toward or whom you have acted contemptuously toward without attempting to reconcile. It could be a family member, friend, public figure. It could be either recent or long ago.
 - Now ask God to show you whether this anger or contempt has made your life better or worse.
 - Finally, consider asking God to take this anger from you or give you the courage to make amends if someone knows you have held them in contempt.