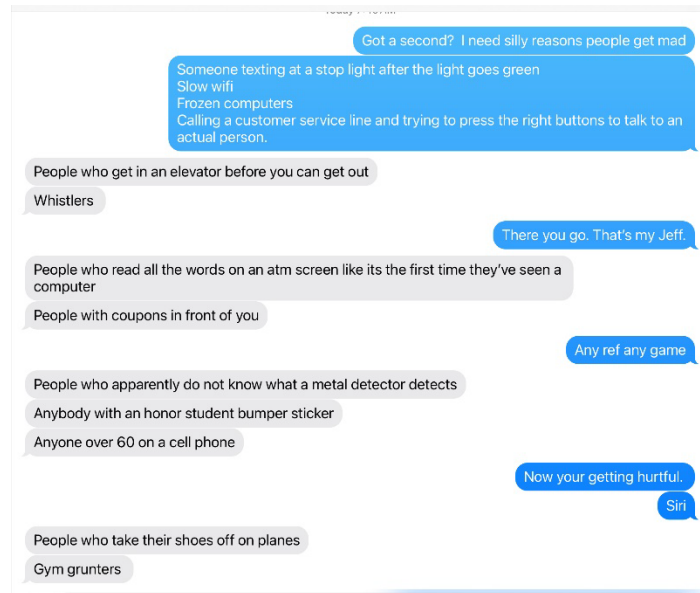
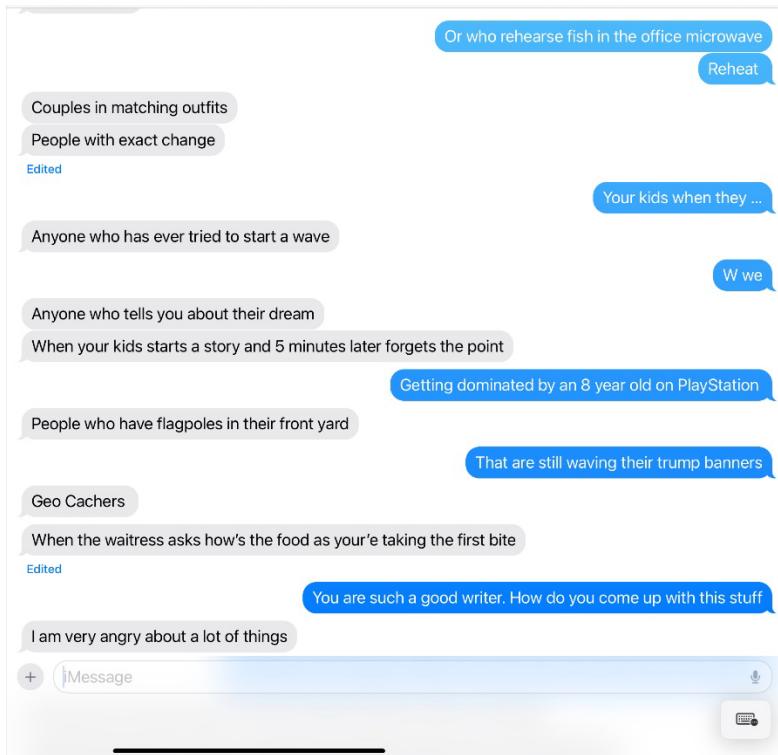


Scandalous Christmas: Angry Jesus





How often is our anger about something that truly matters?

I don't think the problem is that we have anger issues. I think the problem is that we have anger about the wrong issues.

“When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? Luke 11:37-40

Three things that made Jesus angry

1. People who are more concerned with looking good than doing good

But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you. Luke 11:41

2. Abuse and neglect of the poor



“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

“Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces. “Woe to you,

because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.” Luke 11:42-44

3. Injustice for those who can't fight for themselves

“Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Exodus 23:6

*For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.
Psalm 11:7*

*“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
Matthew 12:18-19*

4. Making it difficult for people to follow God by focusing on rules not relationship

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:26,27

The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything — Albert Einstein

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may wish for justice, freedom, and peace. May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. A Franciscan blessing

When do I focus more on rules instead of God's heart for loving others?