

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 1:19-21
Lesson #5
Slow and Quick
03/28/2021

James 1:19

“This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** and **slow to anger**;

These words can be applied in both a general and a specific way.

1

This is good advice for:

1. Personal relationships generally.

- The best way to **affirm others** is to listen with empathy and respect.
- Rushing to judgment and undisciplined anger are **high stakes gambles** in any relationship.

2. Personal development.

- Careful listening is the best way to **expand the mind** beyond one's own experience.
- Rushing to declare an opinion and attack all who disagree **shuts off growth** for both.

It all starts with LISTENING.

2

“If you want to be listened to, you should invest your life in listening.”

Marg Piercy
(novelist)

His key to success as president of Yale University was to “grow antennae, not horns.”

James Angell
(Yale University)

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Winston Churchill

“Listening, not imitation, may be the sincerest form of flattery.”

Joyce Brothers
(psychologist)

“When you listen with empathy to another person, you give that person psychological air.”

Stephen Covey

3

James 1:19

“This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** and **slow to anger**;

The most important application comes from the context of James' letter.

4

Spiritual health and emotional peace are measured by how we **respond to the stress of human suffering.**

Learning the Word & Way of the Cross.

5

The Word of the Cross



is declaration of man's
reconciliation with God
for all who **come to**
Christ by faith.

The Way of the Cross

is the calling to **follow after**
Christ as living sacrifices
committed to being
a blessing more
than seeking one.



6

Early Christians were called "the Way"

Acts 9

"¹ Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." (also 19:9)

Acts 18:25, 26

"instructed in **the way of the Lord**; . . . took him aside and explained to him **the way of God** more accurately."

7

Luke 14

"²⁶ If anyone **comes to Me**, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and **come after Me** cannot be My disciple."

8

Literary myth (Greek mythos - story)

- Myths exist in every society, as they are based on elements of human culture. The main function of myths is to **teach moral lessons and explain historical records**.
- Biblical myths are narratives that teach moral and cultural lessons that are **common to humans living in all places and times**.
- They may (but need not be) based on historical events and draw their meaning from more than the historical event itself.



9

The Fall of Humanity - Genesis 3

"³ **God has said** "You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. ⁴ **The serpent said** to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (hearing)

"⁶ **When the woman saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, (led to seeing and believing)

she took from its fruit and ate and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate." (which led to behaving)

"^{3:10} **I was afraid** because I was naked; so **I hid** myself."

(and then to shame and blame)

10

1. James is assuming we listen to the right voice.

Like Eve, much of our suffering comes from listening to the wrong narrative and failing to see the big picture.

Genesis 3:6

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight** to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise,"



11

2. James assumes that impulsive words may reveal a premature verdict.

Immaturity is often a lack of exposure + a rush to judgment resulting in behaviors that lead to fear and anger.

Matthew 12:34

“For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”

Genesis 3:10

“I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”



12

3. James knows that impulsive anger may make matters worse for us & others as it did for Adam & Eve.

Anger toward self = *shame*
Anger toward others = *blame*

Both are Satan's tools after salvation!

Proverbs 14:29

“He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.”



13



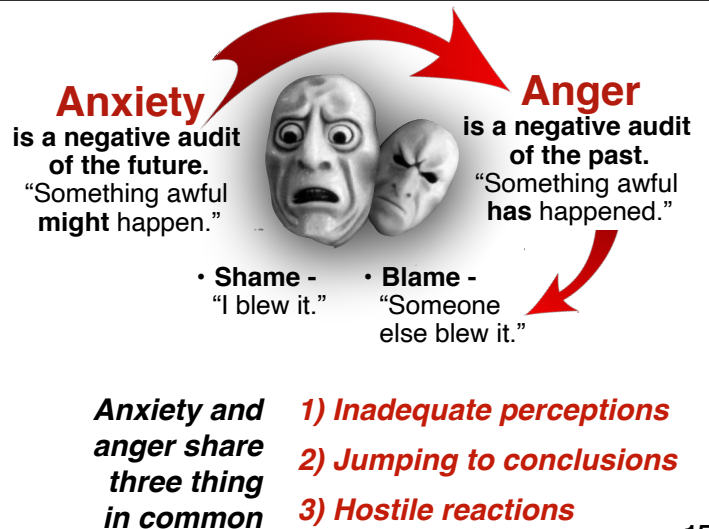
Psalms 37:8

“Cease from anger and forsake wrath,

do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.”



14



15

These lessons run through the whole narrative of Scripture.

*The history of Israel
(Exodus - Mal.)*

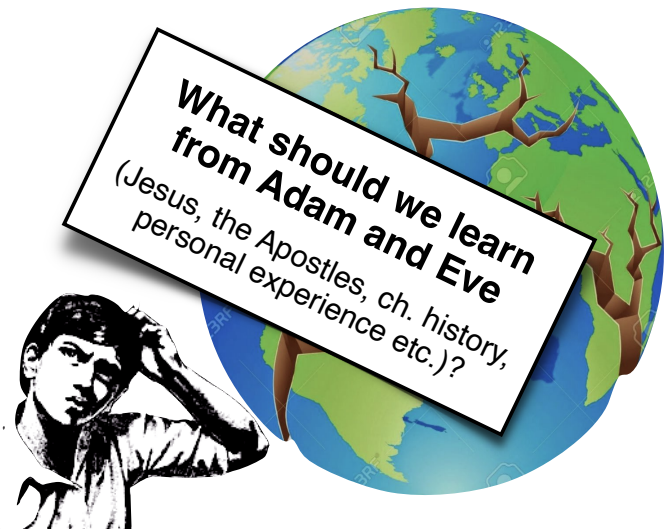
*The temptation of Christ
(Matt. 4:1-11)*

*The teaching of Jesus
(Lk. 10:38-42)*

*The teaching of the Apostles
(2 Cor. 12:7-10)*



16



17

James 1

“¹⁹ This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** and **slow to anger**;

²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore, **putting aside** all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive** the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

Special attention is given to receiving the word and anger, both of which are related to

troubling circumstances.

18

James 1:21

“save your souls.”

The Greek word translated “**save**” is applied often to “**deliverance**” from temporal rather than eternal circumstances.

(1 Tim.2:15 “**preserved** though childbirth”)

The Greek word translated “**souls**” is applied in a broad way to “**life**” in general or in a narrower way to the spiritual dimension of a person.

(Luke 12:22 “**body**” that is fed and clothed)

The **context** will determine the proper meaning.

19

Why do we have two ears, eyes, arms, and legs and only one mouth?

1.

Two ears and eyes give us **direction**, and **depth of perspective**,

2.

Two arms and legs give us **dexterity** and **balance in actions**.

3.

One mouth gives us **all we need to explain #1 and #2**

20

James

Developing a Witness in a Broken World

We know this about life's troubling circumstances
1:1-18

Transition verse

James 1:19

“This you know, my beloved brethren.”

Stressful Trials

- They are unavoidable.
- They can inspire joy.
- They can distort images of others, ourselves, & God.

• **They can draw anger.**

21

How to avoid anger when facing difficult circumstances?

1.

Be quick to hear - receive the implanted word of God with humility (vs.2-18).

2.

Be slow to speak - don't come to conclusions too quickly (Lk.6:45)

3.

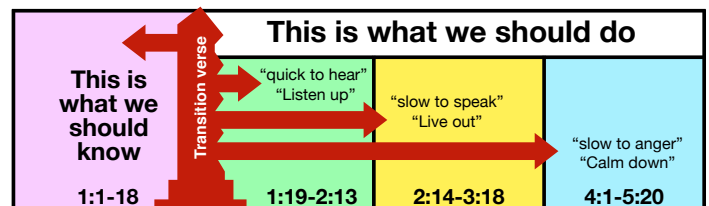
Be slow to anger - when we address the wrong issue we miss available blessings - inner peace & power, outer witness & significance.

22

James

Developing a Witness in a Broken World

“This you know, my beloved brethren.”



James 1:19

“But everyone must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** and **slow to anger**;

23

Luke 10 (Mary and Martha)

"38 Now as they were entering a certain village; a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who was sitting at the Lord's feet. 40 But Martha was distracted by all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, 'Lord, do not care that my sister has left me to do these things alone? Then tell her to help me.' 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled by many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.'"

"Quick to Hear"

Distractions

Anger

Anxiety

24

Jeremiah 2:13

"For My people have committed two evils;

they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,



to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

25

1. Listen to the wrong message.

2. Voice a premature commitment

3. Manipulate others to meet our false expectations

4. Become anxious when expectations are not met

5. Live in Pride or Anger, Anxiety, & Despair.

The well worn path of Adam / Eve as well as Martha's restless soul

26

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome (not changed) the world."

27



Brittany coast of France 1989
shot by Jean Guichard

28

Before you speak, listen.
Before you criticize, wait.
Before you pray, forgive.
Before you spend, earn.
Before you write, think.
Before you start, plan.
Before you run, walk.
Before you quit, try.

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