

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 5:12

Lesson #23

Truth telling

08/08/2021

What comes to your mind
when you hear the word -

Integration

- Racism
- Technology
- Discipleship



1

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World

This is what we
should know

Christians
are chosen
aliens in a
broken
world.
1:1-18

Transition verse

James
1:19

This is what we should do

"quick to hear"
"Listen up"
1:19-2:13

"slow to speak"
"Shut up"
2:14-3:12

"slow to anger"
"Cool it"
3:13-5:20

5:12

The Way of the Cross calls for
Integrity / Truthfulness.

2

James 5:12

"12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear,
either by heaven or by earth or with any other
oath; **but your yes is to be yes, and your no,
no**, so that you may not fall under judgment."

- This passage is not about **profanity** or **legal** oaths,
but about **integrity** of speech.
Our tongue must be in service of the truth.
- This is but one part of **Integrating (syncing)** all facets
of life with Christ's Spirit - words & truth, claims &
deeds, private & public, formal & casual, etc.

"Getting it together"

3

Matthew 5

"33 Again, you have heard that the ancients
were told, 'You shall not make false vows, but
shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.' 34 But I say
to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven,
for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth,
for it is the footstool of His feet, or by
Jerusalem, for it is *the city of the great King*. 36
Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for
you cannot make one hair white or black. 37
**But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No,
no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.**"

New Covenant Disciples
follow a (higher) New Standard.

4

Matthew 12

"33 . . . for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You
brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what
is good? **For the mouth speaks out of that which
fills the heart.** 35 The good man out of his good
treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man
out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil. 36
And I say to you, that every careless word that men
shall speak, they shall render account for it in the
day of judgment. 37 For by your words you shall be
justified, and by your words you shall be
condemned."

New Covenant Disciples
reveal a New Heart with their speech.

5

James 4

"¹ What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source **your pleasures** that **wage war in your members**? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that **friendship with the world** is hostility toward God?"

- **Disintegration** (falling apart) is the product of a life out of sync with God's Image (Christ's Spirit).
- But this troubled life is **in sync with this world's** purpose, perspective, plan, priorities, passions, and power.

6

Orthodox claims that are not integrated into life
are useless.

James 2:14

"What use is it, my brethren, if someone **says** he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?"



A.W. Tozer

"Truth that is not applied is no better than error and may be a whole lot more damaging. The Devil is a better theologian than any of us and is the Devil still."

7

The disintegrated church

- is where the ministers minister and the congregation congregates to consume, complain, and criticize.
- is where leaders feel entitled to lord it over, manipulate around, and prey upon the sheep.
- is where members try to look busy, act holy, and be happy as they show up, shut up and cough up.
- is where members expect God's kingdom before its time and without its King.



8

Matthew 4:9

(The devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of this world and says) "All these things I will give you, **if you fall down and worship me.**"

Are we spiritual aliens to this world
or to God's kingdom?



- purpose,
- perspective,
- plans,
- priorities,
- passions,
- power.

Christian Nationalism

Political muscle

Optics over substance

Values, hopes, & expectations are Material / temporal



9

Worldly Wisdom

Signs we are going in the wrong direction.

James 3

"¹⁴ But if you have bitter **jealousy and selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be **arrogant** and so **lie** against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is **earthly, natural, demonic**. ¹⁶ For where **jealousy and selfish ambition** exist, there is **disorder** and every evil thing."

10

Godly Wisdom

Signs we are going in the right direction.

John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have **peace**. In the world you have tribulation, but **take courage**; I have overcome the world."

Peace and Assurance.

11

Godly Wisdom
Signs we are going in
the right direction.

James 3

“17 But the wisdom from above is first **pure**, then **peaceable**, **gentle**, **reasonable**, full of **mercy** and **good fruits**, **unwavering**, **without hypocrisy**. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in **peace** by those who **make peace**.”

12

Ephesians 4

“20 But you did not learn Christ in this way (world wisdom), 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

What does it mean
to “lay aside” the old
and “put on” the new?

13

Being synced to our new identity in Christ
 makes us aliens in this world.



14

Ephesians 4

“25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **speak truth**, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

“29 Let no **unwholesome word** proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is **good for edification according to the need of the moment**, that it may give **grace** to those who hear.”

The first priority in Paul’s
 agenda for change in
 Ephesians is managing the

TONGUE.



15

An integrated life is a renewed heart
revealed in words and deeds.

James 2:12

“So **speak** and so **act** as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty (**free from the Law**).”

James 1:26

“If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does **not bridle his tongue** but deceives his *own* heart, **this man’s religion is worthless**.”

James 3:8

“But **no one can tame the tongue**; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.”

James 4:11

“Do not **speak** against one another, brethren.”

James 5:12

“but your **yes** is to be yes, and your **no**, no,”

16

Ephesians 4:24

“**put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Before I speak I will renew my
baptismal covenant to
die to self and let
Christ live in me.



17

"I have a very strong feeling that the opposite of love is not hate - it's apathy, It's not giving a #*£≠`¡#.!"

Leo Buscaglia



18

"A wise man once said nothing."

Proverbs 21:23

"He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles."

19

Being "slow to speak" does not mean we **don't** speak but that we **think** before we speak."

"Silence can be defining."

20

"A heartless fool once said nothing."

Proverbs 18:21

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

21

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, **but the silence of our friends.**"

Martin Luther King Jr.



22

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James 1:19

Listen up, guard your words, and calm down **because it's not over yet.**

23