

March 10, 2024 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
James 1:19-20 – “Put Away Sin and Receive the Word”

- A. Preachers give message that they need for themselves.
- B. The reason I am taking these portions of James a bit slower than other preaching is because the teachings of James are like extremely rich food that needs a while to digest.
 - a. James was a student of the OT wisdom literature. That shows in his preaching.
 - b. Much of his teaching are written in short statements to be memorable and very applicable for us to gain wisdom to live for God’s glory.

You are to put away sin and receive the Word of God.	I. <u>THINGS YOU MUST PUT OFF</u> II. <u>RECEIVE THE WORD WITH HUMILITY</u>
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I. THINGS YOU MUST PUT OFF → **vv19-20**

- A. First, when James said, **“everyone must be quick to hear,”** he is saying that we must put off selfishness and impatience. You will not be quick nor careful to hear if you either selfish or impatient.
 - 1. A selfish hearer thinks more about what he or she plans to say next rather than truly listening to the cares and concerns of the other person.
 - a. James says we are to be **“quick to hear, slow to speak.”** That means being on the ready to listen, taking our time to respond rather than just blurting out the first thing that comes to our minds.
 - b. **Prov 18:13** says, **“He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.”**
 - c. Consider asking the other person questions to get to understand the whole matter.
 - d. Endeavor to give others your undivided attention.
 - 2. An impatient hearer gets frustrated easily.
 - a. He or she is not willing to suffer long with others.
 - b. If the other person gets upset, they throw up their hands and walk away.
 - 1. We need the fruit of patience from the Holy Spirit according to **Gal 5:22**.
 - 2. The Greek word we often translate as **“patience”** can be translated as the **“state of being able to bear up under provocation, forbearance”**¹
- B. Next, James said you are to be **“slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God”** (**vv19-20**).
 - 1. Some may feel they have justification to be angry at something or someone, yet often when it is that quick, flared-up anger it is sinful. Here we can describe it as **“anger of man.”**
 - 2. It is possible to be angry yet not sin according to **Eph 4:26-27**: **“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”**
 - a. When you are quick to anger that often leads to sinful anger which **“does not achieve the righteousness of God.”**
 - b. Such anger leads to hurt relationships. It can turn people away from your gospel witness.
 - c. Dr. Jay Adams taught on anger, using the illustration of a clock pendulum.
- C. James next taught that you are to be about the business of putting aside all sin a child of God. According to **v21**, you calling is to put **“aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness.”**
—See **WSC 35** concerning your calling unto sanctification.

¹ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 612). University of Chicago Press.

II. RECEIVE THE WORD WITH HUMILITY → **v21**

A. You are to receive God's Word **"in humility."**

1. The disciples rebuked those who brought children to Jesus for a blessing. Jesus said, **"Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all"** (Mark 10:14-15).

a. Very young children are needy and must often ask others for help.

b. When approaching our Triune God, you must admit that you are needy and even helpless before Him.

1) Apart from Christ, the incarnate Word, you are without any hope of salvation whatsoever.

2) In humility, confessing your need, you must approach God the Father through Christ as your propitiation— the final, ultimate Sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God due to you for your sin.

3) In humility, you must confess that there is nothing you can do or say to save your soul. Jesus must be your Advocate to plead your case.

4) Apart from Jesus, you can do nothing that is pleasing to God.

c. Robert Lowry wrote these beautiful words in a hymn, "I need thee, O I need thee, ev'ry hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee."

2. When you read God's Word or especially hear it preached, you must listen with humility as one who is in desperate need.

a. You need the Word's guidance about where you are to go and what you are to do with your life. It also guides you where not to go and what not to do.

b. You will often need the Word's rebuke. Be humble to receive that rebuke.

B. It is the **"word implanted, which is able to save your souls"** (**v21**).

1. Jesus spoke of our hearts being like soil while His Word is like the seed of a sower cast into a field to produce a crop.

2. For the implanted Word to save your soul, Mat 13:23, you must be good soil by hear the Word, understand it, and grow to bear fruit, **"some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."**

a. Consider praying by using this illustration Jesus gave.

b. Ask God to remove those things that hinder your bearing of fruit.

3. Using the words of Ps 1 pray that the Lord would cause you to delight in His law and all of His Holy Word to meditate upon it day and night so that you would be **"like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers"** (vv2-3).

Review, further application, and conclusion: