

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“The Anger of Man”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 1:19-21

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. We continue today in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #7. I have titled today’s message *“The Anger of Man”* (1:20).
-) If we profess that we are Christians, our Christianity must be displayed in how we talk and how we act. So, how are we doing with anger issues?
-) **SLIDE 9**. Webster defines *“anger”* as *“a strong feeling of displeasure and usually of actively expressed opposition or hostility.”* This morning I want to look at anger from three different perspectives.
-) **SLIDE 10**. #1. There is such a thing as righteous anger or righteous indignation. **RIGHTEOUS** anger is when we react against sin and understand that **GOD** has been offended. God and His Word have been violated. Not me.
-) **SLIDE 11**. JOHN 2:14-16. Jesus clears the temple. He was angry because the house of God had been turned into a den of robbers.
-) And there are other Biblical examples when people have been angry because the law of God had been violated. And righteous anger, when handled Biblically, is never sinful.
-) The truth is, the Christian should be righteously angry more often because there are certainly plenty of reasons out there for the Christian to have righteous anger.

-) **SLIDE 12.** But James is not referring to righteous anger in this passage. How do I know that? JAMES 1:19-20.
-) Because righteous anger is the righteousness of God. It's OK to be righteously angry. It's OK that I am angry as a Christian that our government has legalized the abortion of unborn babies. And every Christian should be angry.
-) But James is saying there is another type of anger that does NOT lead to the righteousness of God. What kind of anger is James referring to here? Let's give it a name.
-) **SLIDE 13.** #2. **PERSONAL** anger is when we react against the world and understand that **WE** have been offended. I have been violated. Not God. Personal anger has nothing to do with a violation of a law of God. It has everything to do with me not getting what I want. And I promise you the list of things that can make us personally angry is 100 miles long.
-) I can have personal anger when other drivers on the road do not use their turn signals properly. I can have personal anger when I watch the news about politics in the USA. And Canada. I can have personal anger over telemarketers who insist on selling me a car warranty or Medicare supplemental insurance.
-) I can have personal anger because the drive through at my local fast food restaurant is closed because no one wants to work because they have been told they don't have to.
-) As I said earlier, the list of situations that make us personally angry is 100 miles long and includes everything under the sun. But the one thing in common with every instance of this type of anger is that we do not get what we want. And in 21st century America we live in a society where we are used to getting what we want.
-) I want other drivers to properly use their turn signals. I want both parties in our government to get along.

-) I want the telemarketers not to call me. I want someone to be working the drive thru at my local fast food restaurant when I drive through at 9:00pm.
-) Notice the common denominator there? I want. I want. I want. And my personal desires are not met. Therefore, I get angry.
-) The website everydayhealth.com says that if you are prone to losing your temper, there are 7 health reasons to stay calm.
-) **SLIDE 14.** 1) An angry outburst puts your heart at great risk. 2) Anger ups your risk of a stroke. 3) Anger weakens your immune system. 4) Anger problems can make your anxiety worse. 5) Anger is linked to depression. 6) Hostility can hurt your lungs. 7) Anger can shorten your life.
-) Personal anger, when improperly controlled, can and will have a negative effect on our bodies and our health.
-) But let's admit it; we are human beings with the human condition, and we all have personal anger to some degree. But again, personal anger, in itself, is not sinful. The sin is in what we do with that anger.
-) So, I ask. Are you an angry person? Where do you allow your anger to take you? Does your anger cross the line into sinful behavior? Is your anger hurtful towards others? Does your anger give Christianity a bad name? Is your anger displayed in words, or in actions, or in both? Do you allow your anger to escalate into fits of rage? Do you control your anger or does your anger control you?
-) How far will we allow our anger to take us? Go on YouTube and do a search on road rage and watch a few of those videos. Anger, when out of control, will always leads one into a sinful situation, poor life decisions, broken relationships, declining health, and in some cases, death. I'll ask again. How far will we allow our anger to take us?

-) The Book of PROVERBS is a great book if you want great godly advice about holy living. Does this book give us any godly wisdom about the topic of anger? Yes.
-) **SLIDE 15**. PROVERBS 22:24,25. Remember, the Christian is not an old creature anymore. We are new creations in Christ.
-) **SLIDE 16**. PROVERBS 30:32,33. Remember, the Christian is not an old creature anymore. We are new creations in Christ.
-) **SLIDE 17**. 1 TIMOTHY 3:2-3. Pastors should not give in to anger either.
-) **SLIDE 18**. JAMES 1:19-20. Let's get back to James. James tells us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. I'm convinced that if we were quick to hear (listen) and slow to speak, that may help considerably with our personal anger issues.
-) But I would like to present a third perspective on anger beside righteous anger and personal anger. This past week I was reading commentary on this passage as I was preparing for this message and I found a very interesting take on this Scripture text in JAMES. Let's end with this.
-) **SLIDE 19**. #3. **UNRIGHTEOUS** anger is when we react against the Word of God simply because we do not **UNDERSTAND** it, or we **DISAGREE** with it. I found this a very interesting perspective of anger. And quite possibly this is exactly the type of anger James is talking about. We'll see more of this next Sunday as we move on to the next three verses. Let's look at the context of the passage.
-) **SLIDE 20**. JAMES 1:13. Back in v13, there were brethren who believed that God could tempt them into sin. And when they sinned, they got angry. And when they got angry, they had to blame someone. Right? It's not my fault. There is a very strong possibility that they did not properly understand the Word of God or maybe even disagreed with it.

-) Story time with Pastor Mike. Sasha.
-) So, if you really want to get some “*Christians*” unrighteously angry over the Word of God, tell them that LGBTQ is sinful or tell them that women should not be pastors.
-) Or tell them that the speaking in tongues we hear today is nothing more than gibberish. Or tell them that people like Benny Hinn and Todd White and Kenneth Copeland are not genuine faith healers. Or tell them that America’s favorite pastor, Joel Osteen, is a false teacher propagating false doctrine sending undiscerning sheep straight to hell.
-) Trust me. People will get unrighteously angry when you say these things—when people like us stand on the truth of the Word of God. To me it’s unrighteous anger. Anger because a person does not understand the Word of God or they have twisted and distorted what it clearly teaches and they just want to disagree with it.
-) **SLIDE 21.** JAMES 1:19-20. Let’s look at this verse one more time with the possibility that James may be talking about unrighteous anger. Let’s be quick to hear the Word and also have a desire for it. It is God’s Word.
-) Yes, we may question some things, but let’s be slow to speak against it. No, God did not tempt me to sin and no, God did not make me this way (Sasha). Give the Holy Spirit some time to illuminate the truth within us.
-) And “*slow to anger*” James says. I’ve been saying this since day one I walked into this church. “*The truth will usually make you angry before it will ever set you free.*” The Scribes and Pharisees didn’t like truth and they crucified truth to the cross. You can bet they were unrighteously angry.
-) Christians, we are the salt of the earth and we are to be a light to the world. And when we allow our anger to show, that doesn’t make us very salty or very bright.

) Let's take that energy we would have used in anger, and
unleash it sharing the gospel and telling people about Jesus. I
promise you, you will sleep better at night.

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