

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“Doers of the Word”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 1:19-25

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-9**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 10**. We continue today in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #8. I have titled today’s message *“Doers of the Word”* (1:22).
-) For this morning’s Scripture text, I included the three verses (19-21) that we discussed last week. I want to use the context of those three verses to help establish the truths James is giving us in v22-25.
-) **SLIDE 11**. Last week we talked about anger because James talked about the anger of man in V20. We said that this anger could have been personal anger. Personal anger is the type of anger we generate when we personally have been offended. Example of extended warranty.
-) But I don’t think James was speaking about personal anger. Looking at the context of chapter one, I think the anger James is speaking about was what we defined as unrighteous anger. That’s when we get angry because we either do not properly understand the Word of God or we disagree with it.
-) And we know the brethren were blaming God for tempting them to sin which very possibly resulted in these brethren having unrighteous anger. There was something about the truth of the Word of God these brethren just didn’t get.
-) **SLIDE 12**. I want to look at this issue of unrighteous anger three ways this morning. 1) Are we being taught the truth? 2) Are we listening to the truth? 3) Are we doing what it says?

-) **SLIDE 13.** #1. Are we being taught the truth? Example. The preacher tells the congregation that Jesus Christ is not the only way unto salvation. All paths lead to God. The congregation trusts their preacher so they believe what he says as truth.
-) Now, we know that is a false statement. Jesus Christ IS the only way unto salvation. Gospel requirement. But if someone like us who knows the truth challenges any of these deceived people on this issue, they may or will have unrighteous anger because they want to defend what they believe is true. But the reality is they have not been told the truth. The truth matters.
-) **SLIDE 14.** Conclusion. A person has righteous anger when they defend the truth. A person has unrighteous anger when they defend false doctrine. The brethren in James' letter were accusing God of tempting them into sin. That is false doctrine which led them into "*the anger of man*" as James calls it.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Possibility #1. Why might one have unrighteous anger? They have not been **TAUGHT** the truth. Have you ever noticed that the people who get upset the most over doctrinal differences are those who are on the side of error? When you are on the side of truth it's easy to remain calm.
-) And folks, I have quite a responsibility on my shoulders to make sure I get this right. More on this when we get to JAMES 3:1.
-) **SLIDE 16.** #2. Are we listening to the truth? Example. The preacher tells the congregation that Jesus Christ IS the only way unto salvation. No one gets to the Father except through Jesus. The preacher is speaking truth.
-) But not everyone is listening. One lady is sitting in her pew and her mind is occupied with other things. Where should I go for lunch? Did I unplug the coffeepot? I think there's a new Hallmark movie on tonight. With Candice Cameron Bure. Is it time to sing the final hymn yet? Will he ever quit speaking?

-) In this example we know that truth is being taught. But if someone like us who knows the truth challenges this inattentive lady on this issue, she may or will have unrighteous anger because she wants to defend what she believes is true. And the only person she has ever heard speak on this issue is Oprah Winfrey who believes all paths lead to God so that's the stand this inattentive lady is going to take.
-) **SLIDE 17.** Conclusion. A person has righteous anger when they defend the truth. A person has unrighteous anger when they defend what they don't know. Some people are just not listening. James tells the brethren in this letter to be "*quick to hear*" which I will interpret as pay attention.
-) **SLIDE 18.** Possibility #2. Why might one have unrighteous anger? They are not **LISTENING** to the truth. Have you ever noticed that the people who get upset the most over doctrinal differences are those who just do not know the truth? When you are on the side of truth it's easy to remain calm.
-) **SLIDE 19.** #3. Are we doing what it says? Example. The preacher of a very large church tells his congregation that it is wrong and sinful to cohabit and have sex before marriage.
-) **SLIDE 20.** HEBREWS 13:4 says "*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*" The preacher is speaking truth.
-) Everyone is listening. But one young man in the congregation doesn't agree with the preacher because he is in that situation and he would rather be like the culture than obey the Word of God. He thinks the preacher just needs to get with the times.
-) In this example we know that truth is being taught. But if someone like us who knows the truth challenges this young man on this issue, he may or will have unrighteous anger because he wants to defend his sinful position and actions.

-) To him being disobedient outweighs any consequences or judgment that may happen. This man likes to pick and choose his own truth from the Word of God rather than what the Word of God clearly teaches. Eisegesis.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Conclusion. A person has righteous anger when they defend the truth. A person has unrighteous anger when they defend their own sinful actions. Some people just don't like what this book says. James tells the brethren in this letter to be "*doers of the Word.*" Read.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Possibility #3. Why might one have unrighteous anger? They do not want to **OBEDY** the truth. Have you ever noticed that the people who get upset the most over doctrinal differences are those who love their sinful ways? When you are on the side of truth it's easy to remain calm.
-) Example. It's not unusual for my wife to say to me, "*Didn't you hear what I just said?*" I'm sure all of you husbands out there have never heard that before. But I have.
-) What does my wife mean when she says that? It means she's speaking and I'm not giving her a proper response. "*Michael, will you take the trash and put it outside in the cans?*" "*Yes dear.*" Five hours later, "*Michael, I thought I asked you to take down the trash? Were you not listening?*"
-) Three possible responses. 1) I didn't think she was speaking the truth. But she was. 2) I just wasn't listening. But I was. 3) I disagreed with her command. But I didn't. She spoke the truth, I was listening, and I didn't disagree with what she asked me to do. I just didn't do it because I just didn't want to do it.
-) And that's what James is facing here with the brethren. They were being taught the truth. Were they not listening or did they just not agree with the truths they were being taught? Or did they just not want to be obedient to it? Whatever their excuse, it wasn't good enough.

-) **SLIDE 23.** So, James tells them that if they hear the Word of God and don't do what it says, then they are deluding themselves.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Webster – delude. James is telling the brethren that if you don't do what the Word says, you are being misled and your judgment is off. You can believe Satan, you can believe the world, you can believe yourself, or you can believe the Word of God. Which one's it going to be?
-) **SLIDE 25.** But there is a reward for being a doer of the Word. JAMES 1:25.
-) Do you want to have a blessed life? Do what this says. Don't just hear what it says, be doers of the Word. Listen to the truth. Obey the truth. Remember, the truth will usually make you angry before it will ever set you free. And remember this too. We are not the authors of truth. And 21st century America is not the author of truth. God is.
-) And a blessed life does not mean your health remains perfect and your finances never deplete and your car doesn't break down. It does not mean a life of health, wealth, and prosperity. It does mean that God will show His favor to you in some way. And that way will probably be different for all of us.
-) BGCC, be doers of the Word. Be blessed!

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