

SWIFT AND SLOW

Int.

1. Aim: To explain what these mean and why we should live by those rules
2. Jas. 1:19 **"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"** 20. **For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.**
 - a. James is the writer
 - b. He is writing to Christians scattered over the land to encourage them in their trials
3. In Jas. 1:19-25 he is writing about how to have a stable character - his advice...
 - a. Be swift to hear
 - b. Slow to speak
 - c. Slow to wrath
4. Swift and slow

Discussion

I. SWIFT TO HEAR - Ready to Listen

- A. **"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."** Jas. 1:21 NKJV
 1. Swift = fleet of foot, quick, speedy, fast and attentive mind, ready disposition to listen
 2. Purge evil from lives
 - a. Lay apart all filthiness = sin is dirty
 - b. Superfluity of naughtiness - overflowing of wickedness - evil
 - c. A man who has committed sin all week can't hear swiftly the word of God

- d. If his heart is full of folly his ears will be full of wax - sin is like wax in the ears - it prevents sound waves from entering the ear and reaching the brain - sin blocks the hearing of the word and keeps it from reaching the heart
- e. We require our children to wash their hands before coming to the table
- f. We must purge evil before we will listen to the truth of God !

3. Matt. 13:15

B. Receive with meekness - v. 21

- 1. Engrafted word - word of God is bound into our heart - the rooted word
- 2. Receive with meekness - not arrogance
- 3. Meekness - submissive - willing to learn God's will for us !
- 4. We must be pure and meek to hear the word of God
- 5. This engrafted word will save our souls.

C. Doers of the Word - v. 22 **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."**

- 1. Must not only be a hearer
- 2. Many think the sermon is over when he is finished hearing it! This is not so
- 3. Like a man looking in a mirror - v. 23 & 24 **"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."**

4. Some people are too generous in hearing a sermon
 - a. Give one part to this man and another to this man
 - b. When sermon is over they have given it all away and kept nothing for themselves
 - c. III. "Laid it on them today"
 5. Mt. 7:24-27 - hear & obey = blessed - Parable of Wise man & foolish man
 6. Rom. 2:13 - doers justified **"(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified."**
 7. A person is blessed for doing - not hearing - Lk. 11:28 **"But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it."**
 8. A man was asked late in the week what the sermon was about the previous Sunday. He said, "I don't remember what it was about but I remember I went home and poured out my whiskey."
 9. Matt. 5:6 **"Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."**
- D. We must be swift to hear - we learn more while listening than while speaking !

II. SLOW TO SPEAK Jas. 1:19

- A. It means - slow to begin speaking - not speaking slowly in contrast to talking fast
- B. Our tongue is no laughing matter
 1. We ought to think twice before we speak once - we have 2 ears and 1 tongue
 2. Our tongue is hedged in by two rows of teeth, but our ears are always open
 3. The tongue weighs very little but few people are able to hold it

4. Jas. 1:26 - if we can't control our tongue then our religion is vain **"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."**

C. Why be slow to speak ?

1. Because our tongue is so deadly
 - a. Jas. 3:5-8 - fire, iniquity, poison
 - b. Swearing and cursing - Ex. 20:7 Jas. 3:9
 - c. Lying - liars have part in lake of fire - Rev. 21:8
 - d. Gossiping and tale bearing
2. Because our tongue can do so much good
 - a. Teach others - Matt. 28:19-20
 - b. Comfort and cheer in times of sorrow
 - c. Prov. 25:11 **"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."**
 - d. Good fruit comes from the lips of a man that is slow to begin speaking

D. Doctors used to diagnose a patient by looking at his tongue. Same might be used to determine a persons spiritual health !

E. We need to be slow to speak

1. Prov. 29:20 **"Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him."**
2. Prov. 10:19 **"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."**

III. SLOW TO WRATH Jas. 1:19

A. Wrath

1. Anger
2. Jas. 1:20 **"For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."**
3. Be slow to get angry, extremely slow
4. Many are ready to get angry at any little thing
5. Righteousness - right, straight line - one lined up properly with God

B. Anger is not always a sin

1. Eph. 4:26 **"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"**
 - a. Not encouraging them to be angry
 - b. Warning them to be careful about sinning while angry
 - c. Anger is used about 100 times in reference to God, who did not sin
2. We must control our anger
 - a. Tit. 1:7 an elder must not be "Soon angry"
 - b. We must have a slow boiling point

C. Anger is a big DANGER

1. Eph. 4:26-27 **"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."**
 - a. Let not the sun go down on wrath
 - b. Let your anger sub-side quickly
 - c. Unless we do we will give place to the devil or an opportunity to the devil

2. Anger should be in proportion to the offense
 - a. Some aroused to great anger by small inconveniences
 - b. Matt. 5:22 many become angry with a brother for no sound reason
3. Put Anger away from your life for it is dangerous

D. Be slow to anger - Ps. 37:8 **"Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."**

Conclusion

1. Let every man be Swift to hear - Slow to speak - Slow to Wrath
2. Swift to hear
 - a. The sermon will not be over when I quit speaking
 - b. It will be over when you have fulfilled it in your life
3. Slow to speak
 - a. Pro. 21:23 **"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."**
 - b. Be careful with your tongue for it can get you into much trouble or it can be a great blessing
4. Slow to Wrath
 - a. It is not fun to be angry with people - be slow to get that angry
 - b. Prov. 25:28 **"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."**
5. Often have it turned upside down - slow to hear, swift to speak and swift to wrath

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