



**Speaker:** Pastor Matt

**Series:** James Faith/Works

**Sermon Title:** Humbly Receiving God's Word

**Scripture:** James 1:19-21

## OUTLINE

1. Principle/Truth: Humbly receiving God's Word is the only cure for softening an angry heart.
2. Problem of the Heart: Pride and self-righteousness lead to impulsive, angry speech that soils the name of Christ we bear and damages relationships.
3. Gospel (What Jesus' Substitution Accomplishes for Us): Jesus bore God's wrath for your wrath . . . your anger. He entrusted himself to the Father so you can be healed and embrace/receive God's implanted Word.
4. Response (Based on our Identity in Christ): Be quick to listen to God's Word . . . to receive it with meekness, which will sanctify you (set you apart more and more) to be used for the Lord's work.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: When is it hardest for you to be slow to speak or slow to anger?

Read James 1:19-27 slowly to see today's passage in its immediate context.

## Principle/Truth

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. What is your first response when angry?

1. managing or controlling your anger (putting another rock in your backpack)
2. lashing out in explosive anger (pulling the trigger on the shotgun) - remember explosive anger can be controlled but explosiveness shows in our body language
3. slowly and humbly seeking the Lord's perspective on the situation and responding with truth and grace
3. How or why is God's Word the only cure for the angry heart? (refer back to verses 5-8 and 13-16)?
4. What does it mean that the word is "implanted"? How might this shape how we receive it?

## **Problem of the Heart**

### **1. Heart-Level Questions:**

1. Read James 4:1-10 and discuss the causes of anger and quarreling.
2. When you're quick to speak or angry, what's really going on in your heart?
3. What are some ways we justify our anger instead of surrendering it to Christ
4. What fears or desires might be fueling that impatience or irritability?

### **2. Under the Surface:**

1. Are we seeking control? Validation? Justice on our terms?
2. How do we rely on ourselves instead of receiving the implanted word?
3. Consider the following assessment (possibly individually):
  1. Is there anyone I am presently angry with?
  2. Do I see clearly enough to see/acknowledge my anger?
  3. What am I angry with them about? / What kinds of things provoke me to anger?
  4. How do I respond when angry?
  5. How has my anger affected my relationships?
  6. Am I willing to be meek/humble to allow the Lord to heal me so I can be free from anger?

## Gospel (What Jesus' Substitution Accomplishes for Us)

1. Read 1 Pt 2:21-25 and discuss Jesus' pattern.
2. Read James 1:21 and discuss the solution God gives for putting off and being renewed?

### **Response (Based on our Identity in Christ)**

1. What would it look like this week to be quicker to listen?
2. Where do you need to surrender anger or control?
3. What truth from God's Word do you need to receive with humility?
4. How does the Lord free you to release control and surrender?
5. What will you do this week to take meaningful, biblical steps to surrender to the Lord?

### **Close in Prayer:**

- Praise Jesus for being our substitute.
- Ask the Spirit to bear fruit in speech, patience, and humility.
- Pray for courage to obey and to love like Jesus.