



Sermon Notes
November 4, 2018
"Active Listening"
James 1:19-21



I. Introduction

- A. The big application for this series is to be quick to _____ and slow to anger.
- B. During a conflict, both parties want exactly the same thing; they want to be _____ and understood.
- C. _____, the brother of Jesus, emerges in the 1st century as the leader of the church in Jerusalem.

II. Quick to listen and slow to speak

- A. The most important thing we can do relationally is to _____ listening.
- B. The longer we listen, the more we _____.
- C. The more we learn, the less _____ we will be.

III. Making things right

- A. When we are _____ we are not in line with God's agenda.
- B. God wants us to be right _____ one another.
- C. James says 'don't settle for being right, _____ things right.'

Things I would like to remember about this message:

Asbury Daily Study Guide

INTRODUCTION

We all know what it is like to be hurt by someone who just couldn't listen long enough to understand us. Maybe in their attempt to be right, they damaged a relationship that could have been saved with a little patience and curiosity. You've probably been on the other side of that coin too. Taking the verbal offense may have won the argument, but you lost relationally. What if we didn't settle for being right, but tried to make things right instead? The longer we listen, the more we learn, and the better chance we have of protecting ourselves from our own mouths.

Monday: James 1:19-21

James apparently became a Christ-follower when Jesus appeared to him after the resurrection (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:7). He became an influential leader in the early church. In this short letter, he linked hasty, angry speech with "moral filth." To James, a cutting outburst was no small matter, but something hurtful and wrong. Do you think of yourself as "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry"? What is it about ourselves that often makes that very difficult?

Tuesday: James 1:22-25

After describing the danger of hasty, ugly words, James moved on to describe "the word planted deep inside you" (James 1:21) that we should follow. He called it "the law of freedom," God's wisdom, above all as Jesus taught it. He did not drop the subject of wise speech in these verses. He highlighted the wisdom and freedom of making all of our actions, including our speech, accord with God's directions for optimal living. How would the lives of the people we interact with be affected if we spoke and lived in a way that was completely compatible with our Christian beliefs?

Wednesday: James 1:26-27

James used strong language—not angry, but strong. He said if people don't control their words, "their devotion is worthless." How does this compare to your beliefs about Christ's view of, for example, the Pharisees of his day? How can we prevent being viewed by God in exactly the same way?

Thursday: Colossians 3:12-15

The apostle Paul writes these words to a new Christian community and tells them how to treat one another. In the sermon, Eric said "God doesn't want us to be right *at* one another, but right *with* one another." Who do you need to be right with currently? What is the tension in that relationship?

Friday: Philippians 2:1-11

Jesus didn't come to be right; he had all the right answers. He came to reconcile us to God and reconcile us to one another. How can Jesus' approach help us in our own relationships?

MOVING FORWARD

When we speak quickly and listen slowly, we lose our chance to understand. We undermine the value of our relationship. This week practice making listening a priority.

Answers to the sermon notes:

IA) listen, B) heard, C) James.

IIA) prioritize, B) learn, C) angry.

IIIA) angry, B) with, C) make.