Quick To Hear (James 1:19)

Tony Mauck · James 1:19–20

INTRODUCTION

- Let everyone be quick to hear. Slow to speak, and slow to anger. You've heard that before, right?
- We talk about interpersonal relationships. That is how we interact with others, particularly in the closest relationships that we have.

1 Look at the Context of James 1

James 1:12; James 1:18; James 1:21

- We should always first look at a statement that is made in its context to see if that has any bearing on our understanding of the statement.
- Receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.
- What James is saying is that true Christianity is seen in its deeds. What faith is prompted to do as a result of having heard the word of God.

2 Stop and Really Listen to God

Ecclesiastes 5; Psalm 46:1–2

- Maybe this is more about, in the midst of the challenges of life, to really stop and listen.
- Perhaps we need to stop talking, be slow to speak, and really start listening to God and not be angry with what he is instructing us to do.
- It's about an argument with God. I don't like what you're instructing me to do here.
- Cease striving, be still, and know that I am God. God is our refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble.

3 Listen to the Wisdom From Above

James 3:15; James 3:17

- But the wisdom from above is pure. I think really James 1, 19 through 20 is his introduction to these comments in James chapter 3.
- Make sure you're listening to the right source of information. Do not trust and rely on the message of the world.
- Pause. Reflect. Versus just react. Patience in the midst of pain.
- In the midst of your pain. Better listen to God's prophet. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.

4 Where We Argue With God

- You need to listen to God's instruction about salvation.

- But sometimes when the Bible's teaching on sobriety is in view, people want to argue with God about that.
- We argue with God about marriage. Marriage, divorce, and remarriage. You mean one man, one woman for life, one exception? Yeah, that's what the Bible says.
- I don't get to be a Christian, how I define it. God defines it.
- The need to be patient for the ultimate payment for our faith.

5 Old Testament Men Who Illustrate This

Jonah 4

- What are you doing here, Elijah? There are still 7,000. You're not the only one.
- That's all you have to have the plant grow up over Jonah to teach him the lesson about his place and gratitude. Jonah was angry with God.
- Habakkuk says, if everything else falls apart, I'm still going to trust you, God. Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- Judas just got angry. And the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

6 Three Important Things From These Men

Psalm 78:7–8

- These three men teach us that we must stay spiritually steadfast. You can't give up on the wisdom of God.
- Count your blessings in the midst of your struggles.
- We tend to get myopic and look on our situation and just see around ourselves. Focus on a bigger picture. Faithful confidence.
- That they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

THE CHALLENGE

Prepare your heart. A spirit that is faithful to God. Be quick to listen. Embrace it. Have an appetite for it.

MY NOTES