

## The Book of James: Ancient Wisdom for Right Now

James 1:19-27 | *Don't Kid Yourself* | May 10, 2020

### **BE QUICK TO LISTEN BUT SLOW TO SPEAK IN ANGER**

- *"There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking."* (Proverbs 29.20)
- Our relationship with God actually influences the way we speak. James reminds us that when we speak out of a place of anger we don't speak from a place of being centered on Jesus, rather, it is typically from a place of being centered on ourselves.
- James advises to let your relationship with God inform your understanding. God our Father is the one who controls all things, not us. So slow down. Listen to what the other person is saying. Take a posture of humility knowing that God has created and loves that other person as much as he created and loves you.

### **BE QUICK TO LISTEN AND QUICK TO ACT ON WHAT YOU HEAR**

- James tells us that we should listen to what God would say to us. But don't stop there. We should be quick to listen to God, and quick to act on what He says.
- *Story of Grandma Bedwell (What resonates with you in this story?)*
- Be quick to listen, yes. But also be quick to act on what it says. Don't forget it. Live it out, memorize it, make it part of the very fibre of your being, because in doing that you will experience God's blessing not only today and in this life, but forever.

### **BE QUICK TO LISTEN AND QUICK TO EXPRESS LOVE**

- Jesus said, *"'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'* This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*" (Matthew 26.37-38)
- Genuine faith and trust means we look after the vulnerable. It means we look after the refugee, it means we help to feed the homeless and poor in our city, it

means we do what we can to care for the hungry in Africa and the addicted in Russia, and the poor in Thailand.

### ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. What are ways that we can increase our listening in a culture where there are so many things competing for our eyes and ears?
2. What are some examples from your own life (both positive and negative) where you have experienced the blessing of following James' wisdom given in this passage?
3. What are ways that you can begin to implement James' advice into your life today?