

SERMON OUTLINE James 1:19-21

God Requires (and Provides) Righteousness

ATTENTION GRABBER

TERM OF ENDEARMENT

How to Receive Truth

How to Share Truth

HARD COMMAND

Be Quick to Hear

Be Slow to Speak

Be Slow to Anger

Put Away all Filthiness and Rampant Wickedness

POWERFUL INCENTIVE

MORE POWERFUL POWER

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main point of all of it is that God requires righteousness from His people, no matter our circumstances. Hardship is never justification for wickedness. But more importantly still, James helps us see that God provides what He requires.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever needed to tell someone you loved something for their good, knowing it would be really hard for them to hear it? How do you go about doing something like that in a way that is both winsome and compelling? Is James's approach helpful?
3. Do you find yourself caring more about how someone shares truth with you or the truth they share? Does it matter at all if it's a correction or an encouragement?
4. Where do you need to grow in receiving truth? Where do you need to grow in sharing truth?
5. What makes for a good listener? Are you a good listener?
6. Would others describe you as slow to anger? How often do you experience righteous anger? What percent of your anger is righteous? How do you figure out how to act when your anger is righteous?
7. Which of James's incentives for walking in righteousness is most incentivizing for you (God requires righteousness or righteousness is tied to our salvation)?
8. Have you ever thought of the gospel as continuing to work in you even after your conversion? Does that change anything?
9. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Have the hard conversation you've been putting off—whether it's sharing your faith with an unbeliever, confronting someone with their sin, or something else.
11. Ask for help to be a better listener (quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger) and speaker (the truth in love). Ask someone you trust what your greatest speaking and listening strengths and weaknesses are.
12. Ask God to help you identify one specific moral filthiness or remaining wickedness to put off. Put it off. Find a specific promise of God to help you put off your sin.
13. Make sure you can explain the relationship between salvation by grace, through faith in Christ and your holiness.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for being filled with love, truth, patience, self-control, mercy, and grace.
16. Confession. Confess your sins of being unloving, argumentative, rejecting the truth, talking too much, and wrongly agery.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for helping us understand what He requires of us. Thank God for being what He requires from us. Thank God for providing for us what He requires of us. Thank Him for implanting the sanctifying word of truth in us.
18. Supplication. Ask God to make our church quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Ask God to help our church be good at sharing and receiving truth. Ask God to fill us with love. Ask God to strengthen our missionaries to live these things out in harder situations.