

# Before, During, and After The Sermon

# James 1 –

19a: Swift to hear – implies three things:

- Open book: 18, 21. Lk.10:29
  - **Right source**
- Open schedule: swift; eager to learn; excited
  - **Right priorities**
- Open mind: hear. Mt.22, 23
  - **Right attitude**

19b: Slow to speak. Prov.13:28

19c: Slow to wrath.

- Glands, not brains ... Mt.5:22. Gn.4. Jg.19

## James 1 –

20: wrath of man blocks righteousness of God  
[the way of life that He requires]

- Try to teach an angry person
- Anger is temporary insanity

21-25: James does not limit the application of his words to the assemblies . . . but they do describe what we should do before, during, and after . . .

# I. 21a: Before The Sermon

# Lay aside

- Put off, as of clothes. Hb.12:1. 1 Pt.2:1-2
  - Acid test: is our life different after conversion?
- Is our life different after hearing a sermon?
- Ac.22, did Saul change?

# What are we to Lay Aside?

- All filthiness

- Zec.3:4, filthy garments
  - Medical sense: wax in the ear
  - We must remove everything that stops our ears from hearing God
- We lay aside filthy conduct

# What are we to Lay Aside?

- Overflow of wickedness [wicked excess]
  - Evil exists in great abundance / many varieties.
  - Purge the last remains of wickedness to receive the word.
    - Social drinker: 1 Tim.3:8
    - Forbids extreme: 'Therefore I can drink lesser amounts'?? Gospel of assumption.
    - To forbid extreme does not justify things leading up to the extreme.
      - Ja.1:21. ...Murder. ...Abuse.

I. 21a: Before The Sermon

II. 21b: During The Sermon



- Receive with meekness (controlled strength):  
put off evil, receive truth
  - Feelings and emotions under perfect control  
– Aristotle
  - Medicine restores health... Naaman. Saul,  
1 Tim.1. Ac.5
  - Word must become permanent part of us –  
commanding, guiding. Hb.5:9

- Receive with meekness the word
  - Ac.2:41
  - Implanted word: rooted word, Mt.13:21, 23
    - Fruit, Gal.5:22
    - ‘By studying the Word, we feed the dove and starve the raven.’
    - Jewish saying: ‘man who hears without practicing is like a farmer who plows and sows, but never reaps.’

- *Able to save your souls*
  - The salvation of the saved – they act on warnings
  - 1 Pt.5:8

I. 21a: Before The Sermon

II. 21b: During The Sermon

III. 22-25: After The Sermon

- Be doers of the word...
  - Explains 'to receive the word'
  - It is more than hearing or believing it
  - Mt.7:24-27
    - Did some Christians take vacations from God and duties?
    - Passive listening is foreign to NT

- Be doers of the word...
- Not hearers only – those who were regular in listening to lectures, but never became real disciples
- Receiving the word requires listening, believing, and living
  - Mt.7:24, **wise** man hears and does; 26, **foolish** man hears but does not do
  - Lk.11:28 [present tense: keeps on keeping it; past obedience is not enough]

## Reasons –

22: self-deception

- Does not deceive God, satan, or most Christians

23: life of sin is careless and unnecessary

- Ex.38:8
- Ep.5:26

24: without profit

25: only the obedient receive God's blessing

## Reasons –

25: only the obedient receive God's blessing

- Looks into . . . Jn.20:5, Peter; 11, Mary
- Perfect law of liberty. 1 Co.9:21-22
- Continues in it... Stay beside it, remain...
- Doer of the work (also 22)
- Blessed in what he does
  - Mt.5:3-12, blessed (beatitudes)



- ‘Honest criticism is hard to take – particularly from a relative, a friend, or a stranger’
- Summary: what are we to do with the Word?
  - Receive it – James 1:21
  - Hear it – James 1:23
  - Do it – James 1:22
  - Examine it – James 1:25

We can change...  
We must change...  
We will change...  
(willingly or not)