

## The Answer to Anger

[Jas 1:19-21 ESV] 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

### I. Intro

- A. God is so good and provides good things
- B. We interject our own will in the process and find brokenness
- C. James is full of warnings:
  - 1. This was written for us, but specifically to the church in the dispersion.
  - 2. The warnings for the church in the midst of persecution hits us differently when we read it in proper context.
  - 3. They had a justifiable reason to be angry, but James writes a warning to them regarding anger issues and the negative consequences
- D. Today we live in a world that is angry about many things:
  - 1. Road construction...
  - 2. Political differences
  - 3. Philosophical differences
- E. We seem to be looking for a reason to be angry, and find it easy to choose sides and throw stones.
- F. What makes you angry? Who is your enemy?
  - 1. If I stand on the concepts of scripture and people are angry, I have a foundation that is immovable.
  - 2. If I see those who stand against to truth as the enemy, I've misunderstood the assignment.
- G. Lets look to see what James tells us about anger and righteousness.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 19
  - 1. Know this
  - 2. My beloved brothers
  - 3. Let every person be quick to hear
  - 4. Slow to speak
  - 5. Slow to anger
- B. Verse 20
  - 1. For the anger of man
  - 2. does not produce the righteousness of God
- C. Verse 21
  - 1. Therefore, put away filthiness and rampant wickedness
  - 2. And receive with meekness
  - 3. The implanted word
  - 4. Which is able to save your souls

### III. Points

- A. Knowledge is Power (or so they say)
  - 1. This is a quote from English philosopher Francis Bacon dating back to 1597, but the philosophy dates back further.
  - 2. Thomas Jefferson used this quote in the establishment of the University of Virginia
  - 3. Knowledge CAN BE POWERFUL, but is not power in itself.
  - 4. Knowing the traps of the human experience can certainly be powerful, but do not mistake learning as gaining power.
    - a) There is power in KNOWING the word of God
    - b) There is power in knowing God through His word

- c) The warnings we KNOW from God's word are powerful because God is powerful, and His WORD is powerful.
- 5. Knowledge is limited:
  - a) Knowing something can never give you the fullness of experience
  - b) Having a fat stack of facts may win a trivia contest, but through understanding and Spiritual growth we allow for success in the Spirit filled life.
- 6. Facts matter, but the matter more when they are matched with experience.
- 7. Knowledge OF God matched with relationship WITH God will bring power to your life.
- 8. So, study the word and walk with Jesus in ministry, service, and fellowship.
  - a) The pattern of a Jewish boy learning from his father comes to mind here
  - b) Learning while doing, growing in ability, perseverance through mistakes.
- 9. Proper learning will allow you to overcome the traps of the flesh.
- B. Anger is a Problem (potentially)
  - 1. Anger is not a sin in and of itself, but can be sinful.
  - 2. [Eph 4:25-27 ESV] 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
  - 3. There are things that should make us angry, but that does not give us freedom to sin in our anger.
  - 4. When we sin in anger, we are putting the focus on how we have been wronged, cheated, or manipulated, and react in the flesh.
  - 5. The challenge from the text is to allow the word of God to bring spiritual answers to physical problems like anger.
  - 6. The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God:
    - a) The righteousness of God is only through Jesus
    - b) The spiritual transformation found in Christ is a complete mindset change
    - c) The mindset change causes us to battle the flesh
    - d) In battling the flesh we learn to depend on the work of the Spirit in our lives
    - e) When learning to depend on the Spirit, we choose to not react in the anger of the flesh (or other reactions of the flesh)
  - 7. When you are triggered:
    - a) Set aside the first response, and maybe the second and third
    - b) And allow the Spirit to speak into the situation.
    - c) When you fire off in anger, you are feeding the flesh
    - d) When you pause and allow the Spirit to direct, you are practicing the righteousness of God.
- C. Meekness is a Practice (relentless)
  - 1. What is meekness?: Power under control
  - 2. Consider the original meaning and use of the word meek. Strong's Concordance lists the Greek word as praus. According to some sources, this word was associated with the breaking-in of horses. Wild stallions were captured in the mountains and brought down to be broken and trained for a variety of uses. It was imperative that the horses retain their spirit, courage, and power. But without discipline and total obedience, those traits were useless.
  - 3. Meekness is having all the power to act powerfully, but doing so in a gentle, and patient way.
  - 4. The MEEKNESS of the believer will be a bring part of the effectiveness of the message of Christ.
    - a) [Mat 5:5 ESV] 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
    - b) Jesus teaches the prideful religious community about the importance of meekness in the Sermon on the Mount

- c) Just because you have power over someone, or have more strength, does not mean you can act outside of God's directive
  - d) Submit yourselves to GOD, find power.
5. What does relentless meekness look like? Jesus.
- a) Not lacking power
  - b) Not boastful or full of pride
  - c) Not arrogant
  - d) But yielding to the WILL OF GOD!

IV. Close