

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Tune In, Tone Down and Sweeten Up

SERMON REFERENCE: James 1:19-20

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #0511

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) James 1:19-20
 - i) This is God's plan for born-again Christians.
- b) James 1:18 speaks of the new birth.
 - i) Anyone who has experienced the new birth also displays new behavior.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - (2) If your religion hasn't changed your life, then you had better change your religion because you don't have the Bible kind.
- c) James 1:19 speaks of the new behavior.
 - i) James speaks of three pertinent areas of our new behavior as Christians:
 - (1) Be swift to hear – that is, to tune in.
 - (2) Be slow to speak – that is, to tone down.
 - (3) Be slow to wrath – that is, to sweeten up.
- d) Each of these three areas will be dealt with in today's message.

2) TUNE IN - BE SWIFT TO HEAR (JAMES 1:19)

- a) We need to tune in to what God is saying to us.
 - i) In the New Testament, Jesus spoke of those who had ears but did not hear.
 - ii) We need to be ready to receive the things that God has for us.
- b) There are some things that we ought not to hear.
 - i) Mark 4:24
 - (1) Jesus warns to be careful of what we hear.
 - (a) We don't need to listen to every piece of gossip or every philosophy that comes along.
- c) James tells us to be swift to hear the Word of God and what God is speaking to us.
- d) The problem is not that God is not speaking, but that too many of us are not listening.
- e) There are three specific ways in which God wants to speak to us:
 - i) Through the Scriptures.
 - (1) God will speak to us if we will study His Word and pray over it.
 - (2) The Bible is the Word of God.
 - (3) Many people simply read the Bible and get nothing from it because they are not listening to what God is saying.
 - (4) When reading the Bible, there are five questions we can ask ourselves to help us study the Scriptures:
 - (a) Is there a lesson to learn?
 - (b) Is there a blessing to enjoy?
 - (c) Is there a command to obey?
 - (d) Is there a sin to avoid?
 - (e) Is there a new truth to carry with me?
 - ii) Through sermons.
 - (1) God calls His preachers to preach.

- (a) Romans 10:14
 - (b) Isaiah 61:1
 - (c) God holds preachers responsible for what they preach.
 - (i) 1 Peter 4:11
 - (2) Just as God holds accountable those who preach His Word, it is also incumbent upon us to go to church prepared to listen.
 - (a) God will hold us responsible for what we hear in sermons and for what we would have heard had we listened.
 - iii) Through the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Revelation 2:7a
 - (2) Revelation 2:17a
 - (3) It is sometimes easier to hear God speak through the Scriptures and through a sermon than it is to hear Him speak through His Spirit to our spirit because many of us have not yet learned to get quiet and let God speak to us in those quiet times.
 - (a) The devil doesn't want us to get alone with God and will attack our quiet times.
 - (b) Psalm 46:10
 - (c) Luke 21:19
 - (d) One reason we don't hear God speak when we have a quiet time and prayer is because we do all of the talking.
 - (i) Rather than listening to God and being quiet, many of us become egotists in prayer and do all the talking and talk about ourselves.
 - f) Many of us always want some noise going on in the background: TV, radio, etc.
 - i) We cannot bear to be quiet and alone with God.
 - ii) We are "amusing" ourselves out of fellowship with God because we do not allow God to speak to us.
 - iii) We are hearing so much noise that we can't hear God.
- 3) TONE DOWN - BE SLOW TO SPEAK (JAMES 1:19)
- a) We need to tone down; many of us talk too much.
 - i) Proverbs 10:19
 - ii) Proverbs 17:27
 - iii) Proverbs 21:23
 - iv) Ecclesiastes 5:3
 - b) Speech may be silver, but often silence is golden.
 - c) Jesus warned against speaking idle words.
 - i) Matthew 12:36
 - (1) This passage is not referring to pleasant conversation or even humor.
 - (2) The word "idle" in this passage means "non-productive."
 - (3) James 2:20

- (a) The word “dead” in this verse is the same word in the Greek as “idle,” meaning “non-productive.”
 - (4) When something is idle or non-productive, it doesn’t contribute anything; it is hurtful rather than helpful.
 - ii) The Lord is telling us that we will be held accountable for any words we speak that do not build up, that do not edify or help, and words that are destructive and non-helpful.
 - iii) In this passage in Matthew, Jesus was not warning against a wise word spoken playfully but was warning against a foolish word spoken seriously.
 - d) One of the marks that someone has been born-again is that his tongue is now controlled.
 - e) When we’re talking, we can’t be listening.
 - i) Ecclesiastes 5:1
 - f) Psalm 141:3
- 4) SWEETEN UP - BE SLOW TO WRATH (JAMES 1:19)
- a) To sweeten up is the sum total of tuning in and toning down.
 - i) When we start listening more and talking less, it affects our temper.
 - ii) When your thought life is controlled and your tongue is controlled, then your temper will be controlled.
 - b) Being slow to wrath means to be slow to lose your temper or slow to get angry.
 - i) The Bible does not say to never have wrath or be angry.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:26
 - ii) Wrath is wrong when your anger becomes sin.
 - iii) Jesus became angry and was without sin.
 - (1) Mark 3:5
 - (a) What made Jesus angry was hard hearts in the face of human hurts.
 - c) There are certain things that should make us angry, but we need to be careful to not sin in our anger.
 - i) Ephesians 4:26
 - ii) James 1:19
 - iii) It is easy to blur the line between righteous indignation and personal irritation.
 - (1) We are creatures who like to rationalize, and we sometimes call our vile tempers righteous indignation.
 - d) We need to make certain that three things are present in order to be good and mad and mad and good at the same time:
 - i) Make certain that you’re angry for the right reason.
 - (1) Most of us get angry when someone offends us or our rights are taken away, but the Lord Jesus never spoke an angry word when He was personally mistreated.
 - (a) Luke 23:34

- (2) Most of our anger is when someone has wronged us; Jesus got angry when someone else was being hurt.
- ii) Make certain you're angry at the right thing.
 - (1) Jesus got angry with institutions and forms of sin, not with individuals.
 - (2) We can be angry with the wrong that is done, but not with the wrong-doer.
 - (3) Jesus loved people.
- iii) Make certain your anger is in the right way.
 - (1) The Lord Jesus let His anger make Him a part of the solution and not a part of the problem.
 - (2) When we lose our temper, we become part of the problem and not the solution.
 - (3) James 1:20
 - (a) When it is a righteous anger, then the righteousness of God will be worked.
- e) If we have a quick temper, the Bible says that it proves certain things about us:
 - i) It shows that we have a foolish mind.
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 7:9
 - (a) If we are given to anger, we are foolish.
 - ii) It shows something about our character.
 - (1) Proverbs 16:32
 - (2) A quick temper and a violent temper are not signs of strength but immaturity.
 - iii) When we get angry, we also lose control.
 - (1) We open the door to all kinds of other sins that we would not normally commit.
 - (2) We say things that we ought not to say.
 - (3) We do things that we ought not to do.
 - (4) Proverbs 29:22
 - (a) When we become furious, our sins will multiply.
 - (b) Not only does an angry man transgress, but he abounds in it.
- f) How do we deal with this type of anger and temper?
 - i) We need to start treating it as it is: a sin.
 - (1) Some people are proud of their anger and make excuses for their anger.
 - (a) But someone else always has to pick up the pieces from our anger.
 - (2) We try to explain it away and minimize it.
 - (a) But it is not a weakness; it is wickedness.
 - (i) These things spew out of us because they are in us.
 - (ii) If you want to know what you're full of, just see what spills out when you are jostled.
 - 1. If you are full of anger, then anger will spill out.
 - 2. If you are full of Jesus, then Jesus will spill out.

- (iii) We cannot judge a person by his actions because he can plan his actions; watch a person's reactions to the things he has not planned in order to know what is inside a person.
- ii) To control our temper is to have a heart full of the Lord Jesus.
- iii) When we begin to listen and stop talking so much, we then learn to control our temper because our thoughts and words have a way of stirring up our spirits.
 - (1) Proverbs 15:1
 - (2) It is possible to control our temper and speak joyous and loving words through the Lord Jesus Christ.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) The Lord Jesus did not come to make us nice people; He came to make us new creatures.
- b) What James is speaking of in these Scriptures is the fruit of being born again.
 - i) Have you been born again?
- c) You cannot control your temper, your tongue or your thoughts without the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) You need a new nature; you need to be born again.
- d) God loves you, and He has a wonderful plan for your life.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16