

## **James 1:19-20 ENCORE**

- 1) In what way(s) is every sinner an angry person?
- 2) How does God see your sinful anger (Matthew 5:21-22)?
- 3) How destructive is sinful anger?
- 4) Not all anger is sinful; God is angry: How is God's anger different from the wrath of man?
- 5) What kind of things is God angry about?
- 6) Is it possible for people to practice righteous anger?
- 7) Are there any dangers in trying to practice righteous anger? What are they? Discuss this.
- 8) How do God's kingdom and man's kingdom(s) relate to or oppose each other?
- 9) Discuss how the two kingdom's collided at the cross.
- 10) How does the cross help in your battle with sinful anger?
- 11) What (generally & specifically) should you be angry about?
- 12) What changes do you need to make in your thinking or actions?

## Looking Ahead (July 27th to August 2nd)

1) Monday; Our obedience to the LORD affects all relationships

Proverbs 16:7 (KJV) - When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

This is a significant verse regarding our undesirable relationships. We all will encounter those who will resist the work of God and as a result will be our enemies. To thwart their attack on our desire to live for truth, we do well to consider our relationship to the Savior and let God deal with the situation. Aren't we tempted to "right the wrong" or "even the score" by our inappropriate actions (our driving habits, unwillingness to acknowledge, or resistance to befriend) playing god instead of trusting God with the matter? Our obedience to truth provides blessing in our home and our friendships but also affects the way our enemies consider us and ultimately treat us.

2) Tuesday; We can be blinded by our hatred

1 John 2:8-11 (KJV) - Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

In the church there are those that are likable and those that are not. By being separated in our thinking we can easily harbor dislike (hatred) to those who do not share our values or to people we would not normally befriend. While our actions or attitudes are seemingly justified because of our desire to be separate from these brothers, we err and become blinded as a result. We deceive ourselves and minimize our effectiveness in ministry.

3) Wednesday; An unwillingness to forgive affects our worship

Matthew 5:23 (KJV) - Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

The song leader and the worship team lead us and we sing. Do we consider our relationships closest to us? After all we are in church; God will sort the issues out in the preaching service. The sour discussion on the way to church, the willingness to hide behind the service and not be honest with those we care about? Do we minister in some capacity yet hold grudges against a brother or sister who we know too much about? Real worship always considers whether our heart is right with God by first considering whether it is right with members of our household and the body.

4) Thursday; Loving God and hating a brother is unbalanced

1 John 4:20 (KJV) - If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

There is a significant temptation to live our lives to please ourselves while surrounding ourselves with a Christian barrier that includes the people we like and that like us and exclude the rest. It is not that we would say we hate the

others we just don't prefer them or consider them our favorite. These preferences degrade over time so we really like the likable people and despise or find fault with the unlikable. After all how many best friends can a person have? If this becomes the manner of our life how can we pray, worship and minister in the name of loving God? How do the people that are our mission field assess our system of belief? Do they consider it valuable or just another religion.

5) Friday; Prayer is hindered by an unwillingness to love and understand our wife (if applicable)

1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) - Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Throughout the years of marriage we learn to put up and shut up. Yet God still expects the man to be the leader and demonstrate love and support, understanding his wife and being a leader appropriate to her needs. The foundation of a godly witness is best expressed by a husband who loves and cares for the needs of his wife. If we are sure that the world needs the Gospel but we neglect to care for our wife and family demonstrating a lack of faith or dependence on the Word, what message do we send to a world that is lost, without hope? How effective are our prayers on the behalf of those God has called us to minister to?

6) Saturday; Unforgiveness toward our fellow man results in unforgiveness from God

Mark 11:26 (KJV) - But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Don't you get it, you are asking me to befriend the people I work with, to get to know my neighbors... they are sinners of the type that I despise let alone meet the criteria for someone who could be a potential friend. These are the people that offend me, their sin makes the neighborhood unsafe, and this is the reason we have to lock our doors and put a fence around our yard. Forgive them for the wrong that they foster—forget it!

Although we are surrounded by sin on all sides we seldom have to directly address the results of it. Sometimes we will be wronged by these people and we have to decide if we will forgive them. This would be difficult.

What about the people that are closest to us, that use a poor choice of words in a conversation that cause simple hurt by their selfishness. We choose to forgive when because we want them to "sweat" and pay for the hurt they inflicted. If we decide who to forgive and how to forgive aren't we playing god? Consider the ultimate wrong we brought upon Jesus and yet he freely and fully forgives. If he is the model shouldn't we easily forgive also?

7) Sunday ; A divided view of God produces instability in everything

James 1:8 (KJV) - A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

When we choose to live for ourselves and live for God when it is convenient we live by two sets of rules. It is comfortable for us to do so, because after all, the entire world does it all of the time. Who are we serving and what is our motive? This type of thinking renders us unstable and therefore unusable in the eyes of God.