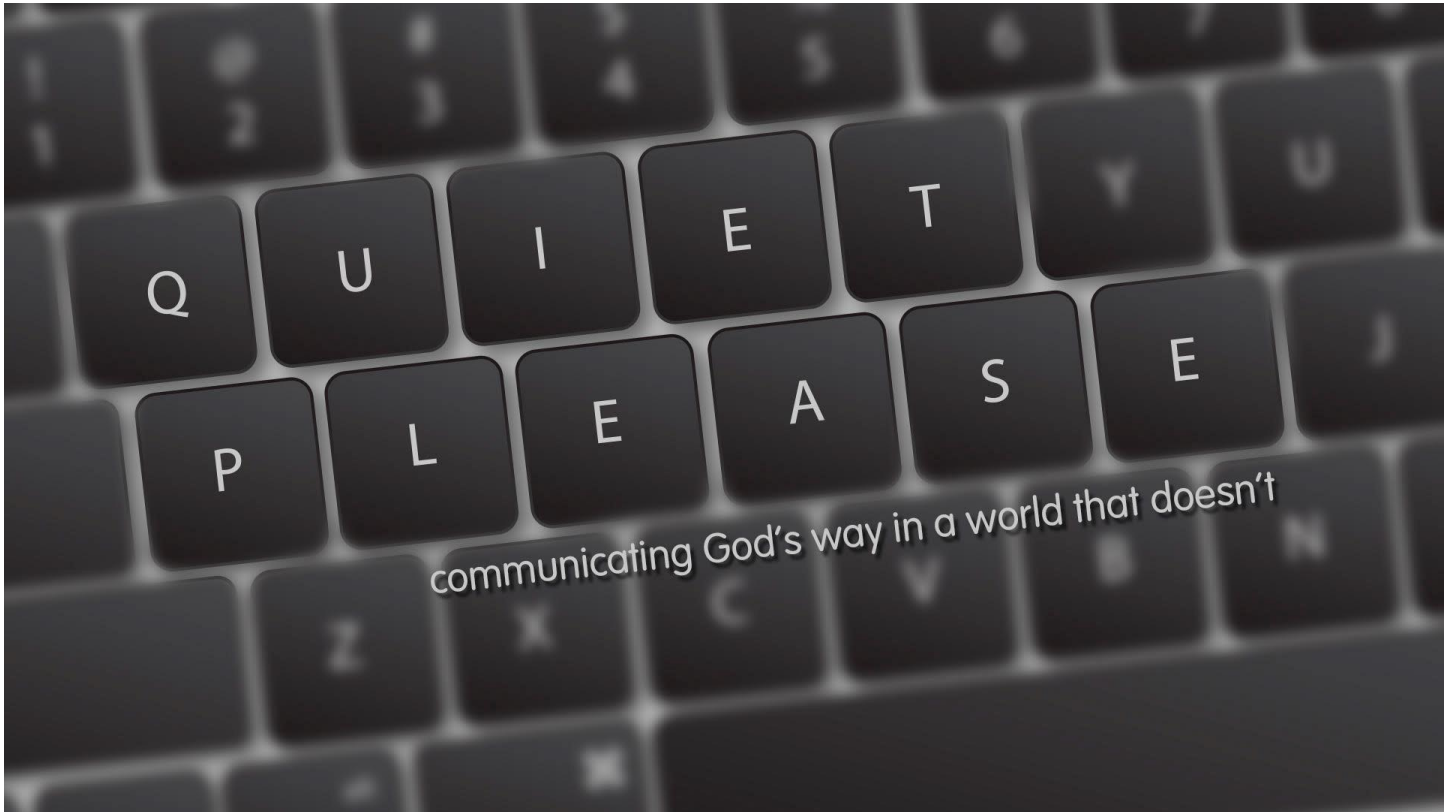


## FAST EARS, SLOW MOUTH



**James 1:19-26, ESV** – <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. <sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

### Notes:

1.

2.

3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 14, 2019  
James 1:19-26

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded of the importance of getting along with people as we go along with God. Is it more difficult for you to get along with people or to go along with God? Why?
- 2 How would you describe the difference between hearing and listening? Do you agree with the statement, "hearing plus doing is listening"? Why or why not?
- 3 James clearly states we are to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Which of these three is the most difficult for you? Explain.

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** **Prov 14:29, ESV** – <sup>29</sup>Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

**Col 3:8, ESV** – <sup>8</sup>But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- 4 When reading passages about anger, we see that our anger brings about folly. Describe a time when your anger has led to folly.

5 What does it mean to “put away” these things? Why is anger listed first?

6 How is being slow to anger related to great understanding? How can great understanding lead to the righteousness that God desires?

**B** ***Matt 7:24-27, ESV** – <sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

7 Looking at the passage above, what role does hearing and doing the word have with gaining wisdom?

8 In this illustration, Jesus makes it clear that understanding and wisdom are foundational to our faith. Practically speaking, what must a believer do to hear the word, do the word, and thus gain understanding and wisdom?

**C** ***Ps 39:1, ESV** – <sup>1</sup>I said, “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence.”*

***Prov 10:19-21, ESV** – <sup>19</sup>When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. <sup>20</sup>The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. <sup>21</sup>The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.*

***Prov 29:20, ESV** – Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

9 What “sin with my tongue” is David referring to in Psalm 39:1?

**10** Describe a time when your many words have caused “transgressions.” Describe a time when your few words have “fed many.”

## TAKING IT HOME

James tells us plainly to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. What would it look like for you to develop a consistent life style of these practices? What steps do you need to take in order to be a better listener, slower to speak, and slower to become angry?

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 1  
Psalm 34:13  
Psalm 141:3  
Prov 17:27  
Ecc 5:1-2  
Luke 11:28