

STUDY NOTES

JAMES: A FAITH THAT ENDURES

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Listening to the Law of Liberty” on 2/10/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19–25

QUICK TO HEAR OR QUICK TO SPEAK?

People are constantly talking. We hear a 24-hour news cycle. We are bombarded with social media voices. Millions of Facebook comments, tweets, and snaps are sent out each day. The words of James could never be so pertinent. He says, “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

- Describe what it is like for you to constantly hear the voices of other people—through news outlets or social media.
- Why is it tempting to join the constant cycle of talking?

THE ANGER OF MAN

Speaking too soon often means saying something that you’ve not fully thought through, and may not even need to say. Scripture repeatedly connects being quick to speak to being angry. The anger of God can produce righteousness, but the anger of man cannot.

You shouldn’t say everything you think about, but you should think about everything you say.

- How does being quick to talk often lead to anger—in yourself or others?

- Why do you think listening first can help diffuse anger?

THE LAW OF LIBERTY

James uses the analogy of looking into a mirror and then forgetting what you look like. The analogy is for the person who knows what to do, but fails to do it. Doing what is good right and true sets you and others free. James says that doing what is right living within the “law of liberty”.

- What is your experience with feeling freedom when doing what God prescribed, even when it didn’t initially feel natural to do?
- How do you need to implement being “slow to speak” in your life?
- Why do you think James says that “bridling your tongue” should naturally lead to caring for the marginalized?

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

In complete righteousness, Jesus was angry with the sin of all humanity. But he dealt with humanity’s sin by placing the punishment on himself. Jesus took the full anger of God on himself, so that we could experience God’s grace.

Anger without out grace cannot be Godly anger.

- How does the example of Jesus challenge how most people view anger—even “righteous anger”
- Pray with each other to show grace to others.