

Monday, 21 March 2016

James 1:19-20

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

As we saw last week, the wrath of the LORD, God the Almighty is directed towards those things that offend His righteousness. Maybe this is why James counsels me to be slow to anger, to take the time to examine the motive for the anger. Is it anger because my precious pride has been hurt or is it based on an understanding that something has violated God's righteousness? The first must lead to my repentance, the latter to my knees to pray for the Spirit's leading; and to realize that only very, very rarely am I called to overturn the moneychangers tables.

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Tuesday, 22 March 2016

Numbers 20:8-12

*"Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."*

Come on! I know You told Moses to speak to the rock and he just gave it a couple of thumps instead. What's the big deal? The Big Deal is that the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. God says, "Do it My way," He does not say, "Do it anyway you please." The consequence for Moses was the denial of the Promised Land. What do I lose when I insist on doing it my way?

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Wednesday, 23 March 2016

Matthew 5:21-22

*"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.*

Another example of possibly misdirected anger. I need to be very careful to examine the reason for the anger and respond in love for my brother and sorrow for the sin that besets him if this is the case. Otherwise, the penalties are severe as I impair my communion with the LORD, God the Almighty because my feelings have been hurt.

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Thursday, 24 March 2016

Ephesians 4:25-27

*Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.*

"Be angry and do not sin." Unless I am very careful, this is an impossibility. When a brother in the LORD violates conditions of his parole, for example, I must prayerfully respond in love, angry at the sinful actions and decisions, but making every effort to restore him to full communion with the LORD. I must never forget that I too am a work in process, inching my way towards the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Friday, 25 March 2016

James 3:17-18

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Anger test. When anger begins to boil, I need to test it against these characteristics. Nothing, including anger, can

ever come from the LORD, God the Almighty that is impure, that sows discord rather than peace, that is unreasonable or unmerciful, leads to bitter fruit that is partial and insincere. That will dampen many a rant and result in a rich harvest of restoration and righteousness.

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*Saturday, 26 March 2016*

*2 Timothy 2:24-25a*

*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.*

How can I correct someone with gentleness when I am angry at them? When Paul says to patiently endure evil, he does not mean tolerate it but with a spirit of love for a straying sheep, patiently helping them return to the King's Highway.

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*Lord's Day, 27 March 2016*

*Psalm 119:102*

*I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.*

O how You teach me. That relationship between the Law and the Gospel is so precious—that I cannot understand the Law without the Gospel and that I cannot live the Gospel without the Law. Help me to keep that indelibly burned into my heart, mind, soul and conscience.

# *VOICES TOGETHER*

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*March 21-27, 2016*

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.\*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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The Fellowship of Ailbe, [voices@ailbe.org](mailto:voices@ailbe.org)  
Realizing the presence, promise and power  
of the Kingdom of God.

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\*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.