

TAKEAWAY

LIFE HACKS

Weird words of wisdom

SLOW TO ANGER

Sunday 23rd February 2020

INTRODUCTION

This week, at Breakfast Church and 10:30, we looked at what James says about handling our anger – particularly in relationships. At The Six, we closed 24-7 week with an evening of prayer and worship.

READ

James 1:19-21

DISCUSS

1. James gives three practical instructions:

Be quick to listen

Be slow to speak

Be slow to get angry

Which of these do you find most difficult to do, and why?

2. It is easy to read advice like this and think it is a good thing - but how can we be sure to implement it in situations where we are angry?

EXPLAIN

James goes on to make a theological statement: "Human

anger does not produce the righteousness God desires." Anger itself isn't a bad thing. Some things should make us angry. "Human anger" refers to the sort of anger that is misplaced; anger that is all about your own concerns. One author puts it very well: "Human anger is when we get annoyed with people because they're in the way of our personal dream of how life should be."

DISCUSS

4. When was the last time you knowingly experienced or expressed human anger? How did you behave?

EXPLAIN

James continues by giving us a solution that is greater than practical advice: "Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls." The Greek word we translate as 'get rid of' was the word you would use for taking off your clothes or taking a bath and getting dirt off yourself. In other words, it's something you would do with something that was external. You'd literally just take it off, remove it. While most worldviews ultimately



tell us to try harder to behave ourselves, James is telling Christians they can 'take off' their filth (i.e. all their wrongdoing) as if they were removing a jacket. How? By taking hold of the word God has planted, in other

words, the good news about Jesus.

5. Do you ever honestly bring your anger to God - not just about the things you should be angry about, but your human anger too?

6. Why is being humble in accepting the message about Jesus so important?

7. What gets in the way of your humility?

PRAY

