

JUNE 20

**“LISTENING MAY KEEP US  
FROM SAYING SOMETHING  
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TO REPENT OF LATER.”**

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**READ**

*James 1:19-21*

You never have permission to be angry. There's a difference between righteous indignation and letting anger take root in your heart. When we carry anger around, it affects everyone around us. It's possible, and maybe even easy, to praise God when we're angry at someone, but the Bible says in those times, even our prayer is an abomination to the Lord. Allowing ourselves to stay angry, or justifying it, gives Satan a foothold. Anytime I look at someone and there's animosity for any reason, the Bible calls that wrath. James is telling us the way to produce righteous fruit is to listen — just be quiet and listen. Listening may keep us from saying something foolish or harmful that we might have to repent of later. Be careful with your responses, remember the weight of your words and be slow to speak. We must recognize our anger and acknowledge our deep dependence on Christ. Instead of the wrath of man ruling, let the righteousness of God prevail.

**PRAY**

Lord, give me a heart that says, “I will accept full responsibility and do whatever it takes to make things right.” May my focus be on You, and on others. Help me be quick to listen and slow to speak.

*From June 20, 2004*