

apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans "received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."

1

apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*James 1:19
Lesson #5
Listening
6/29/2025*

2

How did Christianity (a forbidden religion) survive and grow to dominate the world?

It did not use worldly force.

1. It had a **unique message** (grace and faith) that addressed the core of the human soul.
2. It was open to **all classes of people**.
3. It had a **powerful testimony** in the face of persecution.
4. It had an eager **evangelistic** spirit.
5. It was a healthy **community**.



3

Reaching our generation with the Gospel from a Berean perspective.

- Jesus' model was SHOW and TELL in that order.
- The Apostles' emphasis was more on the formation and health of the Body of Christ than on world missions. Rom.12, Eph.4

Let your light shine.

1 Peter 3:15

"but sanctify **Christ as Lord** in your hearts, always **being ready** to make a defense **to everyone who asks** you to give an account for **the hope** that is in you, yet with **gentleness and reverence**;"

4

Ephesians 4:15

"but **speaking the truth in love**, (to the saints, **not the world**) we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,"

Visual Aid

Salt & Light

Attitude & Action

Listen & Learn

5

Leaders - LISTEN UP

His key to success as president of Yale University was to "grow antennae, not horns."

James Angell
(Yale University)

"If you want to be listened to, you should invest your life in listening."

Marg Piercy
(novelist)




6

Leaders - LISTEN UP

"Listening, not imitation, may be the sincerest form of flattery."

"When you listen with empathy to another person, you give that person psychological air."



Joyce Brothers
(psychologist)



Stephen Covey

7

LISTENING is vital to a healthy community.

1. Social relationships

- The best way to **affirm others** is to listen with empathy and respect.
- Rushing to judgment and undisciplined anger are **toxic** to any relationship.

2. Personal development

- Listening is the easiest way to **expand the mind** beyond one's own experience.
- Rushing to declare an opinion and attack all who disagree **shuts off growth** for both.

8

James 1:19

"But everyone must be **quick to hear**, **slow to speak** and **slow to anger**;"

Healthy communities are not created or nurtured without

listening,

learning, living, & loving.

We are to
listen to
God first



and to all
who bear
His image.

9

Luke 10 (Mary and Martha)

"38 Now as they were in a certain village; he entered a certain village; and Martha welcomed Him in. She had a sister called Mary, who was sitting at the Lord's feet, listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, 'Lord, do not care that my sister has left me to do all these things alone? Then tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered and said, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled by many things; but only one thing is necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.'"

"Quick to Hear"

Distractions

Anger

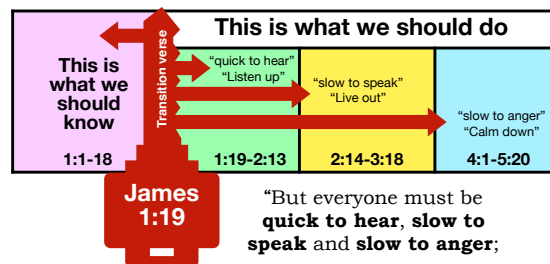
Anxiety

Note the **contrast with Eve** in Genesis 3.

10

James

Wisdom from Listening



11

Anxiety
is a negative audit
of the future.
"Something awful
might happen."



Anger
is a negative audit
of the past.
"Something awful
has happened."

It starts with
poor listening

• Blame -
"Someone
else blew it."

• Shame -
"I blew it."

Anxiety and
anger share
three things
in common:

- 1) **Inadequate perceptions**
- 2) **Impulsive conclusions**
- 3) **Infuriated reactions**

12

James 1

“² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you **encounter various trials**, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ But **if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Give attention to the way we **respond** to
troubling circumstances.

13

James

Developing a Witness in a Broken World

We know this
about life's
troubling
circumstances
1:1-18

Transition verse

James
1:19

“This you know, my
beloved brethren.”

Stressful Trials

- are unavoidable.
- can inspire joy.
- can distort
images of others,
ourselves, & God.

• and can kill or build community.

14

Hard Questions



15